

Globe's latest mobile tech:
 Talk, see and be seen

By Abigail L. Ho

WHEN OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWS) get homesick, a phone call to loved ones back home is a sure way to make them smile.

What if they could see their loved ones' smiling faces via a video call? What if the video call had the same rate as an international voice call? (See *Globe Supplement*.)

GLOBE'S / A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

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ARMY / A8

Army officers not amused
by Sgt. Pacman's KO look

By Dona Pazzibugan

IT'S A KNOCKOUT LOOK—but some military officers don't think so.

Boxing idol Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao's un-military look when he visited Philippine Army headquarters last Thursday



Palace sets 1017 powers

Emergency decree to be imposed if rallies turn into armed threat



By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Dona Pazzibugan

AS MILITANT GROUPS MOBILIZED for massive Labor Day protests, Malacañang yesterday threatened to reimpose an emergency decree if demonstrations turned into an armed challenge against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Ms Arroyo is taking no chances. She has called an emergency meeting of the Cabinet security cluster for early tomorrow morning so that all her advisers would be around should she decide to issue a declaration similar to Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor told the INQUIRER.

The Philippine National Police has also placed its forces in Metro Manila on the highest state of alert, starting at dawn today.

Defensor said an emergency declaration would take the same form as PP 1017, Ms Arroyo's legal weapon against coup plotters which she imposed for one week on Feb. 24 and whose constitutionality is being questioned before the Supreme Court.

"It will be the same draft, it will have the same basis, and the President will have the same powers," Defensor said.

Leftist groups are planning to mobilize from 20,000 to 30,000 protesters in Metro Manila tomorrow. The number will apparently include workers and farmers from Southern Tagalog provinces who have begun a march to link up with their counter-

PALACE / A10

SUMMERTIME AND THE LIVING IS GOOD

The Pangil River in Maitum town, Sarangani, with its clean, clear waters downstreaming against a backdrop of lush vegetation is considered one of the best white water tubing destinations in the province. It is a 1.6-km. run snaking past huge boulders, six drop points or rapids, and roots of trees before winding up at a dam site. (Story on Page A21.)

To the wonders of Internet, add fundraiser for sick kids

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—ADD FUND-RAISING for ailing children to the wonders wrought by the Internet.

Last month a woman who goes by the chat nickname "Igorota" auctioned herself off online for a date. The winning bidder ultimately stood her up, but she made P2,050 for her trouble.

Another woman who calls herself "Jimili" offered her services online as a one-day maid—and drew a bigger amount of P5,000.

The two Baguio-based women continued to hide behind their chat-room names even when the money they earned became part of a donation to finance the operation of 9-year-old Santy John Tuyan, who is afflicted with a heart ailment.

But the anonymity is just fine for a group of Good Samaritans mounting

concerts for the benefit of needy residents of the summer capital.

Musician Conrad Marzan, a country-western star in Baguio, and Ramon Dacawi, city public information officer, have staged more than 100 concerts in the last 14 years to raise funds for children in need of medication or hospital care.

Marzan said they had never considered the Internet until March, when they were enticed by a pitch to go online.

That was the time a report on Santy Tuyan's plight was posted on the Internet by the online newspaper Baguio City dot Com (hosted by www.baguiocity.com).

Jerry Mayona, administrator of the online paper, recalled that Dacawi brought Santy's condition to his attention in February.

So he posted a news item on Santy, along with a letter from his mother, Jacinta, who provided details of her child's

TO THE WONDERS / A8

Like any two people in love, Dennis, Grace walk down the aisle

By Volt Contreras

HE DIGS THE "OLDIES," SHE HUMS THE TOP 10. HE likes checkered shirts; she hates them. He's mad about action-packed computer games; she's cozy with Solitaire.

But an odd couple they're not. They both like things blue. Each finds the other patient, yet seloso (prone to jealousy). And both have spent their lives on crutches fitted with wheels, right up to the altar where they exchanged marriage vows.

A man and a woman born with cerebral palsy and who have been waging an advocacy for persons with disabilities (PWD) tied the knot yesterday at the Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine in Quezon City, allowing the Inquirer to take part in the celebration and help them spread a sim-

LIKE ANY / A8

NOT EXACTLY MARCHING down the aisle but Dennis Hagan, vice president of the Cerebral Palsy Association of the Philippines, and his bride Grace Salazar say, "Don't focus on our disability but what we can do."



Applause, thanks for the man everyone called 'Uncle Bob'

By Fe Zamora

WITH A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE, family members and friends of Philippine television pioneer Robert Stewart expressed eternal thanks "for everything" and bade farewell to the man everyone called "Uncle Bob."

Stewart founded GMA Network Inc. in 1950 when he beamed his first radio transmission over the AM airwaves from a makeshift radio station at the back of a bakery in Angeles City, Pampanga. Ten years later, the Republic Broadcasting System would branch out into television, giving rise to the giant GMA Network Inc.

Stewart passed away on April 6 in Phoenix, Arizona. The urn containing his ashes was flown back to the Philippines

last week as it was his request.

Yesterday, the urn was entombed at the Loyola Memorial Park in Makati where his wife, Loreto, is also buried.

"He left us with good memories. I think we are very fortunate to have had him," said Stewart's son, Jody.

Jody is second to the youngest child of Stewart and Loreto. His siblings are Nida, Vali and Leslie. Stewart also left behind 15 grandchildren.

Jody said his father's life revolved around broadcasting. In fact, when Jody was born, his father had to rush from the hospital to the station "because that day they turned on the transmitter," he said.

Stewart made his first radio transmission on March 1, 1950, Jody's birthday.

APPLAUSE / A6

THE READERS HAVE SPOKEN.

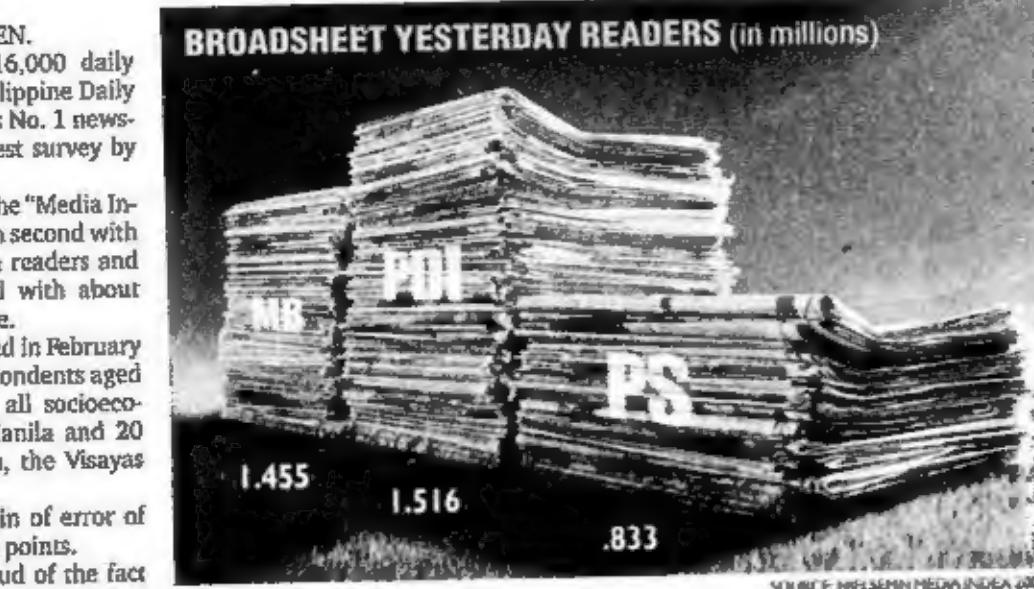
With an estimated 1,516,000 daily readers nationwide, the Philippine Daily Inquirer is still the country's No. 1 newspaper, according to the latest survey by Nielsen Media Research.

The same survey, called the "Media Index" ranked Manila Bulletin second with an estimated 1,455 million readers and Philippine Star a far third with about 833,000 readers nationwide.

The survey was conducted in February this year among 2,500 respondents aged 10 years and older from all socioeconomic classes in Metro Manila and 20 cities in the rest of Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao.

The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

"We are happy and proud of the fact



FORECAST: Mindanao will continue to experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: SHERIETH JOYCE AND, FOR RESEARCH/D4/20/04

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Bataan	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Basig	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gan. Sotias	Cloudy with Rain
Tanay Taytay	Partly Cloudy	Zambanga	Cloudy with Rain
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Dagupan de Oro	Cloudy with Rain
Catanduanes	Partly Cloudy	Boracay	Cloudy with Rain

Cha-cha backers unfazed by Cory et al.

By Blanche S. Rivera and Nancy Carvajal

PROONENTS OF THE SO-CALLED PEOPLE'S initiative to amend the Constitution said yesterday they were unfazed by the new anti-Cha-cha coalition led by former President Corazon Aquino, even as three other associations announced the formation of a movement opposed to rushing constitutional amendments before a clean-up at the Commission on Elections.

Sigaw ng Bayan spokesman Raul Lambino said local government units had pledged to mobilize people for a plebiscite to ratify the changes to the Constitution and they were ready to take on Aquino's "STOP (Sa Tamang Oras at Paranan) Cha-cha" movement.

"We don't feel threatened," Lambino said at the Kapihan sa Sulo forum yesterday. "Let's see if they can derail Charter change."

Sigaw ng Bayan, a coalition of 300 organizations pushing for Charter change, claims to

have gathered at least 8.3 million signatures for a people's initiative.

The signatures would be submitted to the Comelec on May 22 to show that there is a clamor for constitutional amendments, and that the Comelec should call for a plebiscite to approve the amendments.

Battle lines drawn

STOP Cha-Cha, launched by Aquino, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and other opposition, religious and militant

leaders before the weekend, said it was mounting a campaign to recall the signatures gathered by Sigaw ng Bayan.

"The battle lines have now been drawn: it is now a fight between the yagit, or the small people of our society who have previously had no voice or means to chart their own political destiny, and the elite, composed of a ragtag group that wants to continue imposing their whims and caprices," Lambino said.

Meanwhile, the Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture, the Kapatiran sa Pangkalahatang Kabutihan (KPK) and the National Council of Churches in the Philippines said they had come together to form the National Action for Political Renewal and Stability or Napras. Leaders of the group include Nandy Pacheco of The Gunless Society fame.

"We hope to fill the gap for a missing people power which at the moment has taken the distorted form of a people's initiative for railroading the Charter change," said KPK president Johnny Cardenas.

Pacheco said other groups were welcome to join the movement "as long as they follow the movement's rules."

said KPK president Johnny Cardenas.

Clean up Comelec

He said the movement was focusing its advocacy on cleaning up the Comelec before any constitutional amendments were undertaken.

"No other demands shall be made by the group except to say No to Cha-cha and the people's initiative and to express a lack of confidence in the current leadership of the Comelec," Cardenas said.

The group plans to hold candle light assemblies on three successive Saturdays starting May 6 at the Quezon Memorial Circle.

No banners, politicos

"To distinguish it from other rallies, there will be no banners of participating organizations, no shouting and no politicians on stage," Cardenas said.

Pacheco said other groups were welcome to join the movement "as long as they follow the movement's rules."

Senate President Franklin Drilon, one of the STOP Cha-Cha leaders, said the anti-Charter change drive would derail Ms Arroyo's people's initiative.

"We will continue to oppose the people's initiative because it is illegal and deceptive. We will avail of all means available to us," Drilon said, adding that more sectors were expected to join STOP Cha-cha.

All about control

In another related development, Malacañang said yesterday that the people opposed to Charter change would change their minds if they had control of the process.

"It is obvious that even the anti-reform sector acknowledges the need for changes in our Constitution so we could address the problem of too much politicking that has hindered national progress," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said. "But they refuse to join this genuine people's initiative for constitutional reforms because they fear losing control over the entire process."

Bunye was reacting to the formation of the new anti-Cha-cha coalition.

He said the President remained confident that "the people will succeed in their desire for genuine reforms in our political system."

Aquino has lost her hold'

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has downplayed the capabilities of the new coalition, saying that Aquino had lost her hold on the "yellow crowd."

But he acknowledged that temporary restraining orders issued by the courts against the Comelec verifying the signatures collected by Sigaw ng Bayan could slow down the whole process.

"If prima falters, we can get con-ass, or vice versa," he said, referring to the plan to convert Congress into a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution and pave the way for the establishment of a unicameral parliamentary system. With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Armand N. Nocum

GMA says she favors cutting tariffs on oil imports

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
in Manila

BACOLOD CITY—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo favors a tariff cut on imported oil products to help lower the price of fuel in the domestic market.

"Reduction of tariff on oil is so far the best option we can undertake in a calibrated scale to cushion the impact of the spiraling oil prices in the world market without prejudicing economic growth or foregoing vital pro-poor programs," the President said here

yesterday.

Under the government's plan, tariffs on oil imports would be reduced to between 2 percent and 0 percent within the next few weeks.

The tariff cut would mean foregone revenues of up to P2.5 billion.

Ms Arroyo, who spoke at the Vice Mayors League of the Philippines conference here, also called on local executives to help in easing the pressure on oil prices.

She also asked them to help in promoting the use of oil substitutes like ethanol, auto gas and coco diesel.

"Let us also all plant jatropha

together in our towns and cities," she urged, saying it was a perfect and 100 percent substitute and the fuel of the future that will open up new lands for agri-business.

President Arroyo invited town and city councils to participate in the jatropha program by allocating counterpart funds.

She said she had ordered the Philippine National Oil Corp. Petrochemical Corp. be converted into the PNOC Biofuel Corp. and allocated P500 million to promote the cultivation of jatropha, whose seeds can be a perfect substitute for diesel fuel.

Jatropha is a perennial crop that grows in arid regions. The oil extracted from the jatropha seed has the same characteristics as diesel.

She also cited the promotion of ethanol production from sugarcane in Negros Occidental as part of her administration's efforts to develop alternative sources of fuel for the country.

In Manila, an economic adviser to Ms Arroyo has proposed that all increases in the prices of petroleum products should not be covered by the 12 percent value added tax (VAT) on oil in order

not to further add to the burden on consumers.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said that collecting a fixed amount on petroleum products would mean a virtual return to an excise tax system for petroleum which was more appropriate at this time of widely gyrating crude oil prices.

"We should retain the tax per liter by exempting new price increases from the 12 percent. That means freezing it (the tax) at these levels. Eventually, we should revert to an excise tax as oil prices are too volatile," Salceda said.

By pegging the tax on oil to a fixed amount, the government would get the revenue boost it expected from oil sales while giving consumers partial relief from rising oil prices.

Salceda earlier proposed the suspension of the 12-percent VAT on oil for the next eight months to calm the "silent rage" of consumers against the spiraling cost of fuel, power and basic goods.

But Ms Arroyo stood firm on her Cabinet's decision to keep the oil tax.

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3. Two (2) Certificates of Good Moral Character with school seal:

a. For UST graduates, one of the certificates should come from OSA and one from the Dean of the previous college;

b. For non-UST graduates, one from the Guidance office or its equivalent and one from the Dean of previous college;

c. Applicants who are working must submit an additional Certificate of Good Moral Character issued by the current employer.

4. Application and Testing fee; and

5. Fully accomplished application forms. The forms will be issued by the Dean's office only upon submission of ALL THE REQUIREMENTS.

NOTE:
All requirements must be submitted one (1) week before the examination day

APPLICATION SCHEDULE:
Monday thru Friday (9-12 NN; 1-4 PM); Office of the Dean

EXAMINATION SCHEDULES:

8-12 AM - March 17, April 17 and May 5, 2006

VENUE OF EXAMINATION:
Reading Room of the Faculty of Civil Law, Ground Floor, UST Main Building.

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Scholarships Section,
3rd Level, Podium Block
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Singapore 138675

More Information on the scholarship and request for application forms can be obtained through our website at:
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Request for application forms by post from the Singapore Embassy must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope (at least 16cm by 23cm). The envelopes should be marked 'ASEAN Scholarships for the Philippines' at the top left-hand corner.

Closing Date

Completed application forms, together with relevant supporting documents, must reach the Singapore Ministry of Education by June 9, 2006

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We regret that incomplete applications and/or applications received after the closing date will not be entertained.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to sit for a selection test in July and attend an interview in August 2006. Successful candidates will arrive in Singapore in early November to attend a Mathematics bridging course before joining Singapore schools in January 2007.

Wage boards studying pay increase issues

By Jerome Aring

THE NATIONAL WAGES AND PRODUCTIVITY Commission yesterday said the 17 Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards (RTWPB) were monitoring and reviewing wage conditions in the country.

NWPC officer in charge Executive Director Rebecca Calzado said the wage boards "are currently studying the wage issues" raised by the different labor groups on wage orders issued last year.

But an official of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) yesterday rejected wage adjustments through the wage boards and called on workers to directly negotiate with management for pay increases.

"It is better left to the companies to decide and work out with their employees how much wage increment they can give," said Ecop governor Donald Dee, who is also president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Earlier, the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines said it would ask for a P70 across-the-board daily wage increase. Militant labor groups such as the Kilusang Mayo Uno are pushing for a legislated P125-wage hike.

Dee said employers' representatives in the wage boards would most likely reject any wage hike.

"We will try to settle issues within the RTWPBs," he said. "However, if we don't agree, we will most likely have a 'Nay' vote recorded."

The Ecop official added that even the Catholic Church's view that employers had the ability to grant wage hikes was incorrect.

"Companies are really in dire straits these times; few are really earning while the rest are fighting for their survival," he said. "If workers press for a wage hike, many companies would be forced to downsize and this would lead to more people without work."

Calzado echoed Dee's sentiments, saying that "while the policy of minimum wage fixing is to protect the purchasing power of lower-income workers, it is also aimed at preserving existing jobs."

In the National Capital Region, the minimum wage stands at P325 per day after the RTWPB-NCR granted a P25 increase in the basic wage on June 16, 2005.

Congress last enacted a minimum wage law in 1989. Since then, it has delegated the power to fix the minimum wage to RTWPBs.

Meanwhile, President Macapagal-Arroyo will distribute scholarships and training certificates to those wishing to apply at call centers and other cyber services firms.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said Ms. Arroyo would distribute the first 10,000 of the total 100,000 scholarship certificates during rites at Malacañang.

Memberships in unions down

THE NUMBER OF WORKERS JOINING LABOR unions in the Philippines is declining due to new work arrangements, the National Mediation and Conciliation Board said.

NCMB said only around 12 percent or 1.9 million of the 16 million formal sector workers were members of unions or organized labor groups compared to the number of union members in the 1970s.

"This is because of new work arrangements and the global economy. More people would rather be independent contractors or entrepreneurs than employees," NCMB executive director Hans Cacdac said at the Kapihan sa Sulo forum yesterday.

When asked if contractualization was a reason for the declining union membership, Cacdac said it was one part of the new work arrangements.

"This is not just in the Philippines. The declining union (membership) is a global phenomenon," he said, adding that there were advantages to it in this era of a global economy.

Trade Union Congress of the Philippines spokesperson Alex Aguilar admitted that it was difficult to organize workers because 99 percent of all employers in the country were small- and medium-scale enterprises.

Blanche S. Rivera

Labor Day pay guidelines issued

By Jerome Aring

LABOR DAY, WHICH FALLS ON MONDAY, IS A regular holiday nationwide with those reporting for work entitled to extra pay, according to the Department of Labor and Employment.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said yesterday in a circular issued to private sector employers that the following rules should be observed on the regular holiday of May 1:

If the day is an employee's regular workday and the day is unworked, he or she should be paid 100 percent of his or her regular salary for that day;

If the day is worked, the employee should be paid 200 percent of his rate for the first eight hours and an additional 30 percent of the hourly rate in excess of eight hours of work;

If the day falls on an employee's rest day and is unworked, he or she should be paid on that day.

However, if the day is worked, the employee shall be paid 200 percent of his daily rate plus 30 percent. For work in excess of eight hours, he shall be paid an additional 30 percent of the hourly rate on that day.

The country celebrates tomorrow its 104th Labor Day. The first Labor Day was marked by the country's first workers' union, the Union Obrero Democratica de Filipinas, in 1903.

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Parents to sue pre-need firms all over country

By Alcuin Papa

HOLDERS OF FAILED EDUCATION PLANS said yesterday they were determined to file "syndicated estafa" charges in courts all over the country against the owners of pre-need companies who had failed to pay for the tuition and other school fees of their children as provided for under the plans.

Philip Piccio, president of the Parents Enabling Parents Coalition, told a general assembly of plan holders that the move was meant to compel pre-need companies to honor and pay their obligations as spelled out in the education plans they had enticed the public to purchase.

"Let's sue each and every officer of every pre-need company in courts from Aparsi to Jolo," Piccio told the assembly. "We are not out for vengeance; we just want them to honor their obligations to us."

Pointing out the need for concerted action and "one voice," Piccio added, "The reality is that we are all alone because we cannot depend on government agencies and most of the politicians."

About 4,000 holders of plans sold by such companies as Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI), College Assurance Plan, Platinum Plans, Capitol and The Professional Group attended the assembly at the St. Paul College gym in Pasig City.

Piccio estimated that up to two million students and their parents were affected by the failure of pre-need companies to pay their obligations under the education plans which the companies claimed had failed because of sharply higher tuition increases and other "fi-

nancial difficulties."

Last Wednesday, Piccio and a group of PPI plan holders filed "syndicated estafa" charges at the Manila prosecutor's office against PPI directors and officers led by tycoon Alfonso Yuchengco. Other people named in the suit included Helen Yuchengco Dee, Alfonso Yuchengco III, Alfonso Yuchengco Jr., Yvonne Yuchengco and Suzanne Yuchengco-Santos.

As defined by Marcos-era Presidential Decree 1689, "syndicated estafa" is fraud committed by five or more people and is punishable with life imprisonment or death.

The complaint charged that PPI "pretended that they had the capacity to honor their contractual obligations and assume the risks inherent in their open-ended plans and were able to induce members of the general public to part with their hard-earned money to purchase them."

It said PPI "self-engineered and artificially contrived their state of financial distress."

PPI president Alfredo J. Non denied that PPI had misled the public. He said in a statement that "sky-rocketing tuition and other school fees" had placed the company in financial constraints.

"This put an enormous pressure on the corresponding trust funds of the open-ended education plans," he said, adding this was the reason PPI discontinued open-ended plans as early as 1992.

He added that PPI opted for financial rehabilitation, under conditions approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission, to enable it "somehow to meet its obligations."



THE CHILDREN of slain Filipino journalists who are recipients of scholarships from the British-based Bevil Mabey Study Foundation, the Kasangga ng Kaunlaran and the NUJP pose with British Ambassador Peter Beckingham (standing at center).

REINZAMORA

Children of slain scribes find hope in scholarships

By Tina G. Santos

KRISSIA JANE BINUNGCAL, 14, AND

Kint Christian Hector Ureta, 8, were

happy enough to have finished second year high school and grade one,

respectively, with honors, but they

would have been happier still if their

fathers were still around.

Krissia and Kint are among the

children of journalists whose lives

have been shattered after their fa-

thers' or mothers' were murdered.

Krissia's father, Romeo Binungcal,

was on his way to their home in Pilar,

Bataan, when he was gunned down

in September 2004.

Three years earlier, Kint's father,

Rolando Ureta, was shot dead in Lezo

town, 7 km west of Kalibo, Aklan.

"I strive hard to do good in school

so that my father would be proud of

me," Krissia said.

She said that school work was

hard, but added that she found com-

fort in knowing that many people

have been helping her and her family

cope with the loss of a loved one.

Krissia and Kint are among those

able to return to school after being

awarded scholarships offered to chil-

dren of journalists killed in the last 20 years.

"I'm thankful for the help that was extended to us. I could never thank [the organizations involved in the program] enough," Krissia said.

Both are among the eight college,

nine high school and 16 grade school

students chosen to comprise the first

batch of beneficiaries of the Scholar-

ship Program of the British-based

Bevil Mabey Study Foundation

(BMSF), the Kasangga ng Kaunlaran

(KK) and the National Union of Jour-

nalists of the Philippines (NUJP).

"This doesn't mean that justice has

been done to the victims but I hope it

will ease the difficulties for those they

have left behind. It also doesn't mean

that the search for justice can now be

stopped," the NUJP which run the

scholarship program, said.

The group is also monitoring the

76 cases of the Filipino journalists

who have been killed since 1986.

The scholars are provided a sub-

sidy equivalent to public school rates,

to cover tuition and other fees for the

elementary, high school and college

levels. They are also given monthly

allowances.

"I'm very thankful that my four children have been granted a scholarships. This is a big help for me in getting them to pursue their education. With the grant, I can concentrate on finding ways to meet our daily expenses," said Elvie Sanchez, widow of Romeo Sanchez who was killed in March 2005.

The death of Sanchez traumatized his eldest child, Arantza Karizzah, 14. She said her father's death had made her hesitant about pursuing a course in journalism when she gets to college.

"After what happened to my father, I'm still thinking about it," said Arantza, who added she used to write for her school paper. "Right now, I just want justice for my father."

Jose Tumbokon, Kasangga chair, said the government and the private sector would do well to take part in helping children of slain journalists.

"We look forward to more busi-

nessmen and other sectors getting in-

volved in similar initiatives. This is a

step we should take not only for the

oppressed families of murdered jour-

nalists but for the betterment of our

society," he said.

Palanca awards deadline tonight

THE DON CARLOS PALANCA MEMO-

rial Foundation has announced that

the deadline for submission of entries

to the 56th Carlos Palanca Memorial

Awards for literature is not later than

midnight of April 30. A work which

has been awarded a prize in another

contest before the deadline does not

qualify for the awards.

Categories in the English and Fil-

ipino divisions are in Futuristic Pic-

tion, Kabataan Essay, Short Story for

Children, Essay, Poetry, One-Act Play,

and Full-Length Play. The Short Story

category is open in English, Filipino

and the regional languages (Hili-

gaynon, Ilocano, Cebuano, etc.). The

Teleplay and Screenplay categories

are open only in the Filipino division.

Entries may be submitted in per-

son or by courier to the Carlos Palanca

Foundation, 6th floor, CPJ Bldg.

105 C. Palanca Jr. St., Legaspi Vil-

lage, Makati City. All entries submit-

ted via e-mail should be sent not lat-

er than midnight of April 30. Entries

should be in RTF (rich text format)

or a word document file and should

be sent as an attachment, together

with the author's bio-data and an

original copy of the notarized auth-

orization form.

Complete contest rules and official

entry forms are available at the Carlos

Palanca Foundation office or through

e-mail at epawards@info.com.ph or

palancaawards@yahoo.com. For

more information, applicants may

call tel. 818-36-81, local 31.

Holding firm announces scholarships

ELEVEN SCHOLARS MAKE UP THE 2006-07 batch of the Phinma National Scholarship Program, The Philippine Investment-Man-

agement Inc. (Phinma) has announced.

The scholarship covers tuition, board and lodging, and an allowance for qualified stu-

dents pursuing engineering, accounting and

education degrees at the University of the

Philippines-Diliman and Philippine Normal

University, Phinma's partners in the program.

In addition, scholars will participate in out-of-classroom supplemental activities such as study tours, leadership conferences, outreach pro-

grams and Big Brother/Big Sister programs.

"Our goal is to produce not just graduates but leaders," said Phinma president and CEO Ramon R. del Rosario Jr.

"We want our scholars to be not only economically productive citizens but socially engaged individuals who will contribute to the Philippines' economic and social development," Del Rosario added.

Under the Big Brother/Big Sister program, scholars will be mentored by Phinma employ-

ees. The scholars in turn will be deployed to

public schools to tutor potential scholars.

"Through this process, we will be actively involved in their [scholars'] formation and social development, and we can encourage them to start serving their country as early as now. We want to create a cascade effect," said Chito Salazar, Phinma senior vice president who heads The Phinma Education Network.

Phinma is a holding company with inter-

ests in the property, education, energy and

financial sectors. It recently acquired Araullo

University in Nueva Ecija and Cagayan de Oro

College in Cagayan de Oro City.

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public schools to tutor potential scholars.

Mt. Bulusan erupts anew, but spews only steam, ash

By Bobby Q. Labelan
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SORSOGON CITY—MT. BULUSAN EXPLODED again at 10:44 a.m. yesterday, spewing a column of ash that reached 1.6-km high into the sky and showering surrounding villages with ash.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said steam inside the volcano ejected the ash.

There were no reports of casualties or damage and no sign of lava from the volcano.

But alert level 1 and the 4-km danger zone remained in effect around the volcano as a precaution to local residents.

The 1,565-meter volcano straddles the towns of Juban, Barcelona, Bulusan and Irosin. It is located 43 km south of this city.

Phivolcs resident volcanologist Ed Laguerta said the explosion showered ash on the barangays of Buraburan, Anog, Puting Sapa and Bacolod in Juban and Barangays Cogon and Bolos in Irosin town.

It was the second explosion by Mt. Bulusan this year. It first exploded on March 21.

Prior to March 21, Mt. Bulusan had its last activity in November 1994 up to January 1995, spewing ash that affected some 45,762 residents from the towns of Bulusan, Barcelona, Casiguran, Juban, Irosin and Gubat.

As of press time, Laguerta and his men were still at the site collecting ash samples to be sent to their laboratory for analysis.

"Technically, it was an eruption—although it was an ash explosion since the materials spewed were mostly ash and not pyroclastic ones," Laguerta, Mayon resident volcanologist based in Legazpi City, told the Inquirer during the March 21 explosion.

He also said that since the materials spewed were only ash and not pyroclastic, there was not much hazard or threat to life at present but only an inconvenience to people.

He noted that Mt. Bulusan usually exhibited a "one-shot deal"—meaning, once it exploded, it took days before another activity occurred. "It exhibits discreet events," he said.

Laguerta also noted fissures on the volcano's slopes, as manifested by emitting smoke.

With an AFP report

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BS Education

(SPED, Early Childhood, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Major in English, Math & Science)



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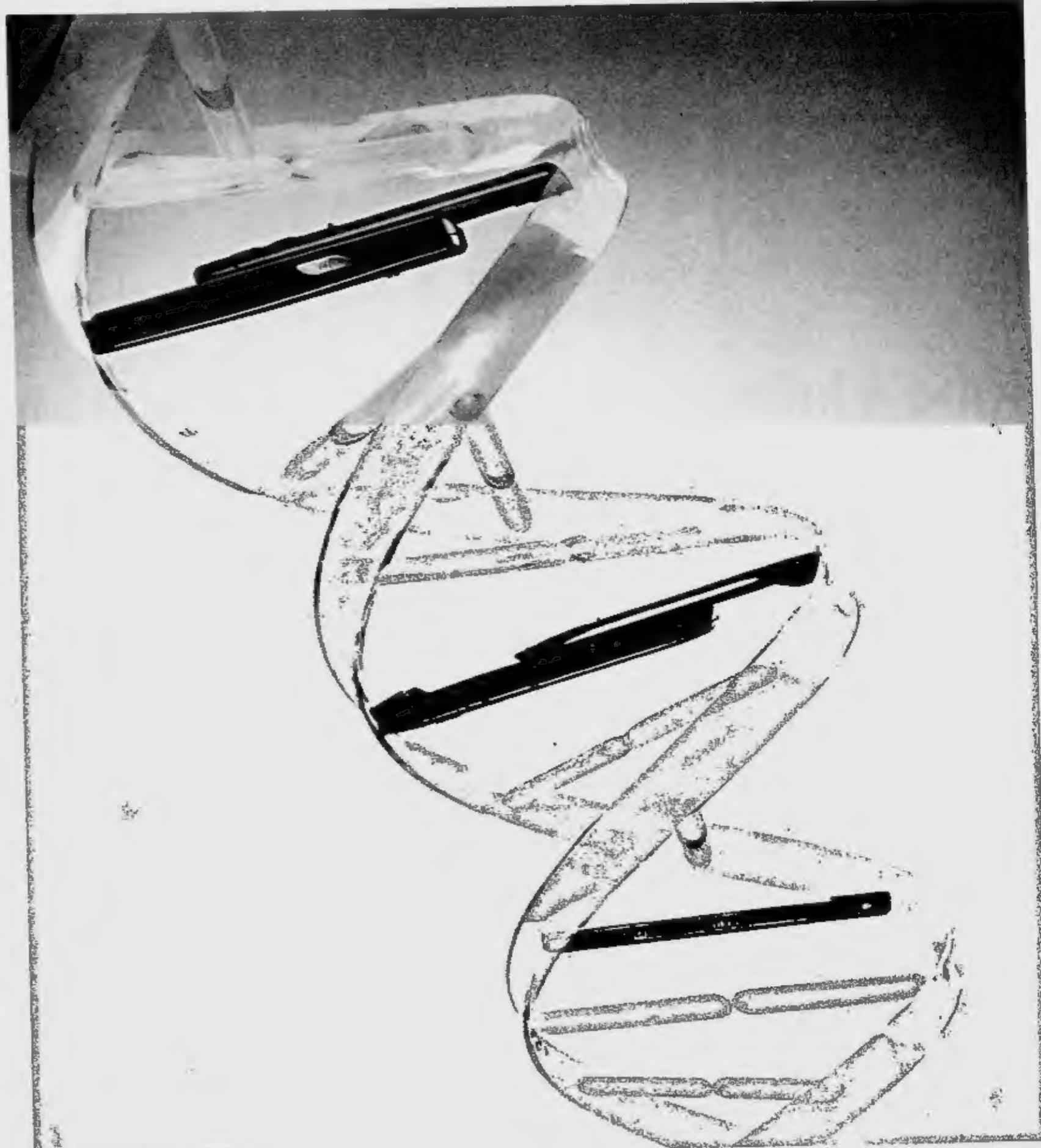
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THE DAILY GOSPEL



Sunday, April 30, 2006
3rd Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Peter's sermon

Peter said to the people, "The God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus whom you handed over to death and denied before Pilate, when even Pilate had decided to release him." You rejected the Holy and Just One, and you insisted that a murderer be released to you. You killed the Master of life, but God raised him from the dead and we are witnesses to this.

"Yet I know that you acted out of ignorance, as did your leaders. God has fulfilled in this way what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer."

"Repent, then, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

2nd Reading: 1 John 2:1-5

Jesus intercedes for us

My little children, I write to you that you may not sin. But if anyone sins, we have an intercessor with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Just One. He is the sacrificial victim for our sins and the sins of the whole world.

How can we know that we know him? If we fulfill his commands. If you say, "I know him," but do not fulfill his commands, you are a liar and the truth is not in you. But if you keep his word, God's love is made complete in you. This is how we know that we are in him.

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

The risen Jesus is real!

Then the two told what had happened on the road and how Jesus made himself known when he broke bread with them.

As they went on talking about this, Jesus himself stood in their midst. (And he said to them, "Peace to you.") In their panic and fright they thought they were seeing a ghost, but he said to them, "Why are you upset and why do such ideas cross your mind? Look at my hands and feet and see that it is I myself. Touch me and see for yourselves that a ghost has no flesh and bones as I have." (As he said this, he showed his hands and feet.)

In their joy they didn't dare believe and were still astonished. So he said to them, "Have you anything to eat?" and they gave him a piece of broiled fish. He took it and ate it before them.

Then Jesus said to them, "Remember the words I spoke to you when I was still with you: Everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms had to be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

And he went on, "You see what was written: the Messiah had to suffer and on the third day rise from the dead. Then repentance and forgiveness in his name would be proclaimed to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. Now you shall be witnesses to this.

Commentary

Peter continues to preach about God's servant Jesus, the Author of Life put to death and raised from the dead, and we are his witnesses. And Peter calls out the words of Jesus: Reform your lives and be forgiven! This is the work of the Easter season for all of us: to know the Risen One among us, to remind one another as John does in his letters that if we know Jesus then we obey him and live in the truth; but if we do not keep his word, we are dead and do not know the love of God. It is in the Word of Scripture that we come to know and understand Jesus the Crucified and Risen One, in community. And in community we must live and suffer and be faithful, even unto death.

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Gonzales doubts Oplan Manggagawa

By Cynthia D. Balana

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER NORBERTO Gonzales yesterday doubted the authenticity of the so-called "Oplan Manggagawa" plot to topple President Macapagal-Arroyo because it was too grandiose a scheme to be carried out successfully.

"When I first read it, it really was a good plan but how will it be implemented? That's the problem. And who will implement it?" Gonzales said.

"So, the way I look at it, it is not a genuine document ... It cannot be implemented."

Gonzales spoke on Vice President Noli de Castro's public affairs program on dzMM, "Para Sa Iyo Bayan."

Gonzales said he read the two-page document regarding the plot as early as last week but was not able to obtain a copy.

Under the Oplan, which was reported by the Inquirer the other day, political opposition groups and members of the religious sector will gather on Labor Day and then at some point, military and police rebels would attack camps Crame and Aguinaldo.

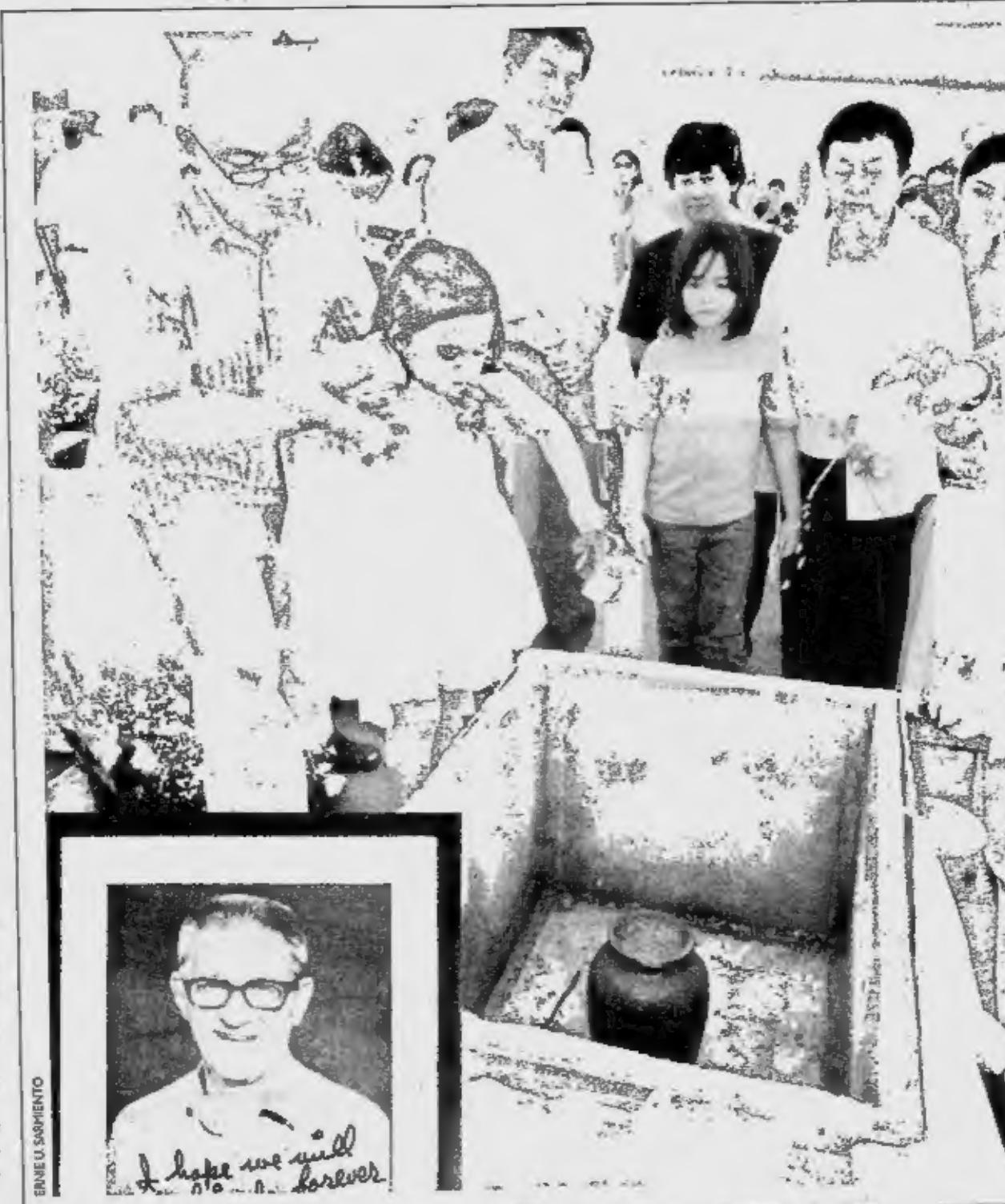
An assault would also be carried out on Malacañang and a new president installed before the end of the day.

The plot would also supposedly involve leftist elements.

Gonzales said that it would be impossible for plot organizers to execute such a massive move.

Gonzales said he was confident the Armed Forces chain of command would remain intact considering the professionalism of the military hierarchy.

Gonzales acknowledged that people power and the military were components of any scenario to topple a government, especially during significant events, such as Labor Day.



Applause, thanks for the man everyone called 'Uncle Bob'

From page A1

In the '50s, Stewart's RBS was at the forefront of media events, such as the eruption of Mt. Hibok-Hibok in 1951 and the presidential elections of 1953 which pitted the charismatic Ramon Magsaysay against the incumbent Elpidio Quirino.

Irreplaceable

It was on TV, however, that Stewart gained popularity as "everybody's uncle" on the daytime kiddie show, "Uncle Bob's Lucky 7 Club," over Channel 7.

"Uncle Bob is irreplaceable," Gonzalo Buñag, a coworker in the broadcast industry, said.

"Philippine broadcasting would not be complete without Uncle Bob," said Buñag, who had worked with Stewart to reopen the radio station dzBB soon after martial law was declared in September 1972.

Stewart first arrived in Manila in 1943 as a war correspondent for the United Press.

Two years later, he resigned from the wire service agency, fell in love with Loreto Pelicano from Pampanga and began his pioneering work in Philippine broadcasting.

When martial law disallowed foreigners from owning media firms, Stewart gave up RBS Channel 7 and ownership was transferred to Gualberto Duavit, Menardo Jimenez and Felipe Gozon. RBS Channel 7 was also renamed GMA Channel 7.

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS.

Great granddaughter of GMA 7 founder Bob Stewart, Arianna Quintal carried by her father Kirby, Stewart's grandson, drops a rose on the urn containing the ashes of Stewart during interment rites on Saturday at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

Globe's latest mobile tech: Talk, see and be seen

From page A1

Subscribers to Ayala-owned Globe Telecom Inc. need not wonder. Because starting today, they will have video-calling capabilities at their fingertips.

Globe wireless business planning head Patricio Pineda III said the company's 3G service would now be available to both postpaid and prepaid subscribers of the telecom firm, following an earlier launch to corporate customers.

"Similar to other markets, we launched the service to corporate users first. This doesn't mean that the service will only be for high-end customers. We want to make it available to as big a market as possible," Pineda said in an interview yesterday.

To do that, he said the prices of Globe's 3G services, such as voice calls and data downloads, would cost the same as similar services currently available on the 2G platform.

OFWs who want to see their loved ones' faces when they call will only have to spend 40 US cents a minute—the same rate they are now paying for an ordinary mobile voice call.

Globe subscribers could already reach, via voice call, loved ones in Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Finland, Hungary, Luxembourg and Poland, Pineda said.

More countries would be added in the list in the coming days, he said.

First in Asia-Pacific

Pineda said Globe would also be launching a mobile broadband service that corporate users could take advantage of.

Globe will offer to all of its subscribers a high-speed downlink packet access (HSDPA), a technology that delivers data speeds of between 1 megabit per second (Mbps) and 3 Mbps—thrice as fast as 3G.



AND INTRODUCING... With gusto, Ayala Corp. chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala demonstrates a video call using 3rd Generation technology, one of the highlights of the 19th Advertising Congress in Cebu City last November.

CNA PHOTO

com firm in Asia-Pacific to make HSDPA available to its subscribers.

Globe launched its HSDPA offering last March 30 as part of the Globe Solutions Visibility product.

While the service targets mobility- and data-intensive corporate users, Pineda said it would also cater to individuals wanting speed and mobility at the same

time, without having to be a large corporate user.

3G-HSDPA suite

Globe subscribers can also avail themselves of a 3G-HSDPA package, dubbed Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA.

With this new offering, subscribers can avail of 3G and HSDPA services via a

single account, eliminating the hassle of having to deal with different billing statements for different services.

"We're actually offering an HSDPA data card bundled with a SIM (subscriber identification module) card."

"Your original SIM will be in your handset, but if you want mobile broadband, we'll give you a SIM card with a number dedicated to that card," Pineda explained.

"That means you'll have separate phone numbers for 3G and HSDPA services. But you'll only get one billing statement for both services," he added.

Wide variety of content

For both services, he said Globe would be targeting mobile phone owners from all walks of life, not just corporate or high-end users.

He said the availability of local content should make 3G an appealing proposition to the mobile operator's subscribers.

"We have local music, local entertainment clips, traffic cams and all sorts of local content. This wide variety of content should appeal to a big part of our subscriber base," he said.

Eventually, he said Globe's 3G service would be made available to subscribers of TM, the Ayala telecom firm's mass-market brand.

While the current price structure of Globe's 3G services matches that of existing 2G offerings, he said the company would come out with "more innovative plans later," while keeping the services affordable as its main goal.

"We just want to offer services that provide benefits for everyone. Video calling for OFWs, for example," he said. "That's a key part of what we want to bring to the market."

MA-INIT! (It's summer again!)

Mainit na! Panahon na naman ng electric fans at aircon.

better insulation material? No, they won't. It is the foil's reflectivity that wards off heat, not the material's thickness or air-bubbles.

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Harvi-foil is a thin, strong aluminum foil sheet that reflects heat. It is installed beneath the roof and above the attic.

But would not foam or air-bubbled cells make the foil e-

Based on numerous tests conducted by international laboratories, aluminum foil reflects 95% of radiant heat and only 5% is retained as emissivity.

This 5% heat emissivity can still build up inside the house throughout the day and make it hot.

How do we control that 5% emissivity building up in the roof? Design a roof system that makes use of a lot of air.

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Simply Creative

Inquirer still No. 1, Nielsen readerhip survey affirms

From page A1

that we have maintained our leadership position nationwide. We thank our valued readers for making this possible," PDI president and CEO Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez said.

"We continuously innovate and strive to satisfy our readers. Recently, we launched several innovations, such as the A plus section, Global Pinoy, Lifestyle Fashion, and highlighted positive stories on the front page, to cater to our readers' diverse interests," she said.

Top since 2001

The Inquirer has topped all five readerhip surveys that Nielsen Media Research has conducted nationwide since 2001.

In the five readerhip surveys, Manila Bulletin placed second and the Philippine Star third.

Nielsen Media Research conducted no survey on media index in 2005, but plans to do two readerhip surveys starting this year.

The Media Index is a syndicated and independent study undertaken by the prestigious international research firm, whose sub-

scribers include local publications, a television network, advertising agencies and big advertisers.

"Apart from readers having the Readers' Advocate to turn to for their comments and concerns, we have added a Subscription Hotline, 896-6000," said Connie Kalagayan, PDI strategic marketing and communications manager.

PDI priority: Readers

"We want to give [our readers] the opportunity to air their newspaper delivery comments/suggestions, and subscription needs," said Kalagayan. "It is our aim to build an engaging relationship where communication is a two-way thing. Our priority is to make our readers happy."

Kalagayan said readers may also avail themselves of subscription packages for 90 up to 360 issues. Under such packages, subscribers automatically receive for free every month any three or all of the following publications: Inquirer Golf Magazine, INQUIRER Badminton, Just Shop and Junior INQUIRER.



Can't wait
for the latest showbiz gossip?®



"OUR MARRIAGE can be considered a culmination of what we've been fighting for: Mainstreaming. One aspect of that is to have families of our own," the Ilagan couple agree.

ROMY HOMILLADA



A KISS IS STILL A KISS. Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Ilagan steal a kiss inside the bridal car after their wedding at the Lourdes Church in Quezon City.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Like any ...

From page A1

ple message to and in behalf of other PWDs. "Don't focus on our disability but on what we can do," said the groom, Dennis Ilagan, 42, vice president of the Cerebral Palsy Association of the Philippines (CPAP).

"[Our marriage] can be considered a culmination of what we've been fighting for: Mainstreaming," he said in an interview hours before the 3 p.m. wedding.

One aspect of mainstreaming is enabling PWDs to "have families of their own without depending too much on friends and family," Dennis explained.

In a separate interview, the bride, 29-year-old Ludivina Grace Salazar, said: "We will live on our own and try to live as normally as possible."

Cementing the bond

Dennis and Grace have actually been wed in a civil ceremony.

But at yesterday's church wedding, Grace sounded like any other nervous bride plagued by last-minute worries. (Dressing at one point, she lamented: "Our cameraman is still missing!").

Grace said their being both *señorito* was one of the reasons they decided to get married before a judge in Manila on Aug. 24 last year.

In four days, Dennis was to fly to Denmark for nine weeks of training on how to run advocacy programs for PWDs. He was one of two Filipinos sponsored by a Danish organization.

They just wanted to cement their bond, knowing each would be out of the other's sight for nine weeks, Grace said.

The two first met at a CPAP function and became sweethearts in 2001. He was the group's president, and she the public relations officer.

The way Grace recalled it, their courtship followed a familiar route: "We often ended up being seated next to each other" during meetings, and fellow CPAP officers often teased them as a destined pair.

And then, on Oct. 15, 2001, "he popped the question and my answer also came in a snap," she said.

Slowness of movement

Dennis' condition impaired both of his legs and his right arm; Grace's mainly affected her legs.

According to Dennis, cerebral palsy is basically a kind of paralysis resulting from a lack of oxygen in the parts of the brain responsible for motor functions. It often occurs before or shortly after birth.

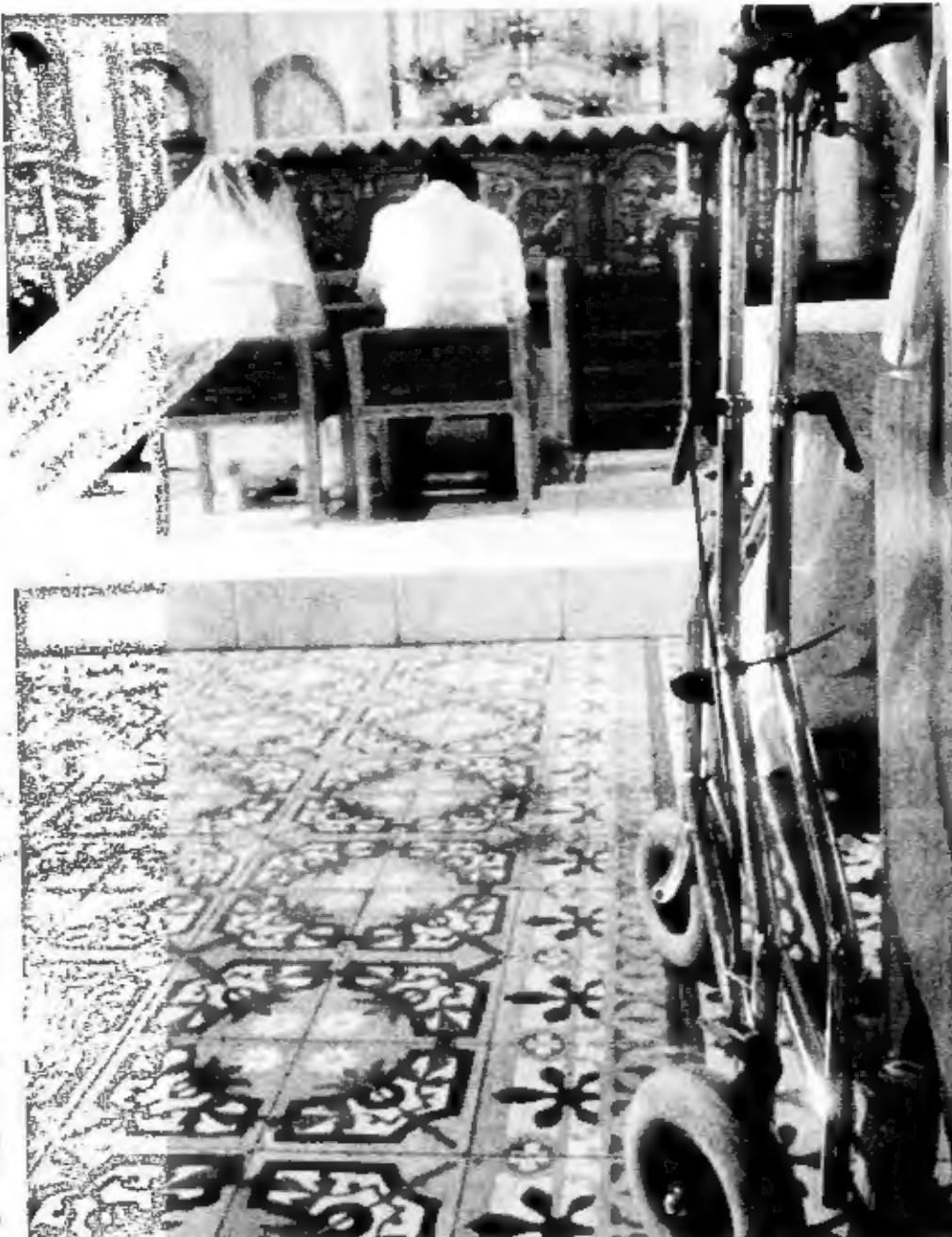
The resulting "spasticity of the muscles" makes the performance of most daily activities very difficult, he said.

Thus, "slowness of movement" is the main cause of the hardships faced by those afflicted—or other PWDs, for that matter—in their struggle to go mainstream by attaining higher education, finding jobs, or simply taking part in normal social functions.

For example, the 13 members of the CPAP board of directors can be considered employable, "but only five of them have jobs right now," Dennis said.

Of the organization's membership of around 250 (covering Metro Manila and chapters in Davao, Iloilo and Pangasinan), he would consider around 50 to be fit for employment befitting their education, but only about 1 percent have jobs.

An economics graduate of the University of



THE WALKERS (crutches on wheels) are parked while the bride and groom take their vows: In sickness and in health, for better, for worse, till death do they part.

Sto. Tomas, Dennis works for Delivering Hope for Spasticity Inc., of which he is the executive director.

The nongovernment organization basically engages in neuro-rehabilitation therapy for persons with cerebral palsy and stroke victims.

Finding romance

But if PWDs need all the support they can get from Dennis' NGO and the like, they don't need help when it comes to finding romance, Grace seemed to suggest.

"We are opposites in many things," the psychology graduate of Trinity College said of herself and her man. "We started out as friends until [feelings] developed into a beautiful relationship."

For all their differences in taste and the usual lovers' quarrels they have had, "he has brought out the best in me," she said, smiling. "He knows how to handle me when I'm down and whenever I have my *sumpong* (moods)."

Grace described Dennis as a lover of few words who deserved his sweetest nothings for those moments when they were alone together.

He lived up to that image during the interview.

"She's very pretty, very sweet and very understanding," Dennis said of his bride. "We've known each other well, we've accepted one another."

Like any average couple, he said, they expected to face the early tests of marriage starting with matters financial.

Thankfully, both of them are employed: He at his NGO, and she at another nonprofit organization, the Philippine Cerebral Palsy Inc., where she is part of the medical staff.

Unconditional love

At the wedding ceremony, a number of the guests—about 15 PWDs among them—were teary-eyed when Grace walked down the aisle.

The officiating priest, Rev. Fred Micua, said that while many people might doubt the wisdom of the couple in marrying, in the eyes of God they were "more whole" than most normal people.

He likened their decision to live as husband and wife, despite the challenges posed by their condition, to "the love that God gives us unconditionally."

As far as she knew, said Jean Gonzales, one of the godparents and current vice president of the Philippine Association of Citizens with Developmental and Learning Disabilities, the Ilagans are the first PWD couple in the country to marry.

The wedding reception was held at the residence of another of the godparents on Kamalan Street near the church, according to the bride's aunt, Leonora Gonzales.

With a report from Kris Bayos



Can't wait
to see their latest video? •

DOLE to labor: Avoid violence, enjoy

By Jerome Aning

LABOR SECRETARY Patricia Sto. Tomas yesterday called on militant groups planning to hold protests on Labor Day to police their ranks and avoid violence.

Saying freedom of assembly was a constitutionally guaranteed right, Sto. Tomas stressed that protesters also

had the responsibility to make sure that nobody from among their ranks took advantage of the situation to create chaos.

"We respect any move to assemble as long as it is conducted in a peaceful manner," she said in a statement.

"We should treat every Labor Day as a special occasion to make our workers feel that their perseverance and sacrifices for their families and for the country, in general, are being acknowledged," she said.

Sto. Tomas suggested that with the long weekend, workers could take advantage of the holiday by spending their vacations in domestic tourist spots.

Boost tourism

"This way, they are not only enjoying the holiday but they are also helping domestic

tourism," she said. On Monday, Sto. Tomas will join President Macapagal-Arroyo in distributing scholarship certificates to call center agents in Malacañang.

As part of her pre-Labor Day activities, Sto. Tomas plans to meet with sugar workers in Nasugbu, Batangas, today.

Classrooms

Sto. Tomas will inaugurate two brand new classrooms completed under the Classroom Galing sa Mamamayan Pilipino sa Abroad (CGMA) program that will benefit school children in Nasugbu's Barangay Tumalim.

The Tumalim Groceria Project will also be inaugurated in the area to ensure the successful reintegration of returning overseas Filipino workers into their families.

LABOR INTENSIVE. Militant groups like the Kilusang Mayo Uno prepare their banners calling for a wage increase, among other demands, on Labor Day tomorrow.

RAFFY LERMA

UPAGLABAN ANG P125 DAHIL NA SA HOD, TRABAHAAT DI CENTRAL HUNDIS CHIKI

LABOR INTENSIVE. Militant groups like the Kilusang Mayo Uno prepare their banners calling for a wage increase, among other demands, on Labor Day tomorrow.

No stopping GMA's Cavite heckler

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
Aquiles Z. Zonio and Jeffrey Maitem
PDI Mindanao Bureau

LUCENA CITY—The female student leader from the Cavite State University who heckled President Macapagal-Arroyo during graduation ceremonies last week isn't done yet.

Ma. Theresa Pangilinan will be among the militants—including workers, farmers and students—who are taking part in a caravan from Southern Tagalog to Metro Manila to link up with other demonstrators for tomorrow's planned massive Labor Day protests in the capital.

"Ma. Theresa will lead the student bloc of the marchers from the Southern Tagalog region," Bayan media coordinator Oca Lapida said in a phone interview before the caravan started. "She's not yet finished in her call for Arroyo's ouster. But this time, she will join fellow protesters from different sectors of society."

Pangilinan created a security scare during the graduation rites in Indang last week when she shouted "Patsikin si (Oust) Gloria" while the President was speaking.

Don't block entry to Manila

Guillermo Bautista, chair of Katipunan ng mga Samahan ng Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan, warned the police and the military not to block the entry to Manila of the caravan composed of more than 40 vehicles.

"We have managed to break through their cordon during the heat of the CPR (calibrated preemptive response). We will not be stopped," he stressed, referring to Malacañang's policy against demonstrations which the Supreme Court has voided.

The Cavite caravan, which also includes rallyists from Quezon, Batangas, Laguna and Mindoro, will ride until Parañaque and walk the rest of the way to the Redemptorist Church in Baclaran, where they will spend the night with a protest vigil.

Target is Mendiola

The marchers from Rizal province left Tanay in the morning to join the Cavite protesters.



ROLE MODEL FOR THE YOUTH, that's how the Kabataan Party now refers to Ma. Theresa Pangilinan, the Cavite State University graduate who heckled President Arroyo as she delivered the commencement address last week. Pangilinan was hailed during a press conference on Saturday.

Today, the group will hold rallies at the Edsa Shrine and the office of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

It will spend the night on the UP Diliman campus in Quezon City and join other protesters from Luzon on Monday for a rally at the historic Don Chino Roces (Mendiola) Bridge near Malacañang.

"Militant groups from the region will time and again call (for the ouster of) Arroyo and for economic and social reforms to ease the dire poverty and destitution in the countryside," Bautista said.

Major cities

In the South, Zainab Ampatuan, deputy secretary general of the Suara Bangsamoro group, said he expected the May 1 protests in Mindanao to be attended by at least 60,000 protesters.

"We will stage protests in major cities of Mindanao ... in Davao, Cagayan de Oro and General Santos," Ampatuan said in Cotabato City.

Unlike in Metro Manila, where protests sometimes turn violent, the Mindanao rallies are expected to be peaceful.

Wage demands

In General Santos City, Bill Andres, spokesperson of Bayan, said the P125 increase in the daily minimum wage remained the main issue for workers.

He said workers in General Santos were still being paid P200 per day despite the successive increase in the prices of basic commodities and the cost of transportation.

Andres said they would also protest the government's continuing failure to address the growing unemployment problem.

He said there were about 4 million jobless Filipinos but Malacañang was focusing on moves to perpetuate Ms Arroyo in power.

"Once Cha-cha (Charter change) succeeds, workers would be plunged further into the abyss of economic misery," he said.

Palace sets 1017 powers

From page A1
parts in the capital.

Other activist groups said they were organizing up to 60,000 protesters in various parts of Mindanao. (See related stories on this page.)

"We will only take this course (an emergency proclamation) if the rallies turn out to be a cover for an armed component to topple this administration," Defensor said.

Police used Ms Arroyo's Proclamation 1017 to break up protest rallies, arrest demonstrators, raid the offices of a newspaper harshly critical of her, and intimidate media.

Defensor's warning followed reports of a new plot supposedly hatched by the opposition and the Left—called "Oplan Manggagawa"—to forcibly oust Ms Arroyo from Malacañang.

Defensor said that PP 1017 enabled Ms Arroyo to quash a plot by military adventurers and leftist rebels to oust her and that, just as in February, she would use her powers judiciously.

"There were no warrantless arrests made under PP 1017. The media might have been a little offended by it, [but] there was really no takeover of any print or broadcast unit. It's a far cry from martial law," said Defensor.

Malacañang scheme

The Oplan purportedly calls for marches on EDSA, assemblies of opposition leaders and some religious groups, armed attacks by rebel soldiers and police on camps Crámer and Aguilano, an assault on Malacañang and the proclamation of a new president by 5 p.m. tomorrow.

Opposition lawmakers and militant groups denied any hand in the purported Oplan and said it was a Malacañang-inspired scheme to link them to a power grab and justify crackdowns on Labor Day protesters and critics of Ms Arroyo.

Defensor said that PP 1017 enabled Ms Arroyo to quash a plot by military adventurers and leftist rebels to oust her and that, just as in February, she would use her powers judiciously.

"We condemned such a brazen attempt to continue to lay the basis for measures that they intend to undertake," he said.

Defensor said that Ms Arroyo would not proclaim an emergency if the rallies are just political movements or protest actions.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the police and military were on top of the situation.

But he said the government "will not shirk its duty of implementing the law to protect the ordinary working man and to preserve order in our streets."

Protesters should stay within the law and protect their own ranks, Bunye said.

While police in the capital would be on red alert, the military, downplaying Oplan Manggagawa, was still maintaining a lower level blue alert.

"We will go on full alert tomorrow and I appeal to rally organizers not to violate the law," said the national capital police chief, Director Vidal Querol.

When troops are on highest alert, all leaves and dayoffs are cancelled and all are required to report to their posts.

Military information chief Col. Tristan Kison said that, so far, there was no plan to put soldiers on red alert.

Palace hand seen

"We have not monitored violent activities. But we make an assessment every day," said Kison.

"Wake na, wake na (No more, no more)," he said when asked if the military was aware of such a plan.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada expressed disbelief at the supposed plot.

Drilon and Pimentel said it was an attempt to justify the reimposition of Proclamation 1017.

"Secretary (Raul) Gonzalez issued veiled threats about the revival of 1017 so this is part of the intimidation," Drilon said in a phone interview.

Laying the groundwork

"We condemn such a brazen attempt to continue to lay the basis for measures that they intend to undertake," he said.

Pimentel said the Senate "will not be involved in an extralegal grab for power."

Pimentel added: "The administration is trying to lay the basis for the forcible breaking up of peaceful rallies for Labor Day and project it

as a power grab with senators as masterminds ... Only they can make that up."

"They are the ones concocting this. That's too good to be true," Estrada said, adding the Oplan was a "psywar" being waged by Malacañang to frighten its critics.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, one of the Batasan 5 group of congressmen under House protective custody and facing rebellion charges, said that Malacañang and the police should not push the panic button.

"Instead, they should show respect for the right of the Filipino working class to demonstrate on Labor Day and ventilate their legitimate grievances which are numerous," he said.

Crisis of legitimacy

But Ocampo said workers had "every right to call for (Ms Arroyo's) ouster" because of the unresolved political and economic crises in the country.

"Besides her refusal to resolve the crisis of legitimacy besetting her government, she has rejected any considerable wage hike and declined to institute price controls on basic goods and services to ease their burden of economic survival," he said.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano accused the administration of "manufacturing a scenario to justify the militarization of the Batasan Pambansa complex and the Senate premises (and) execute its hellish objective of forcibly booting us out of Congress."

Sleepless in the Palace

"A figment of the President's imagination," "Malacañang-hatched anti-Labor Day propaganda campaign," and "Palace-concocted psychological warfare" were phrases used by the Kilusang Mayo Uno, BUKIRURANG ng Manggagawang Pilipino and other groups in describing the alleged Oplan.

"The administration officials must not blame workers if they're having sleepless nights," KMU chair Elmer Labog said. With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Philip C. Tubesa and Jerome Aning

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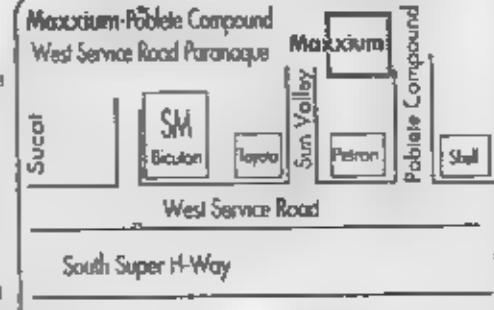
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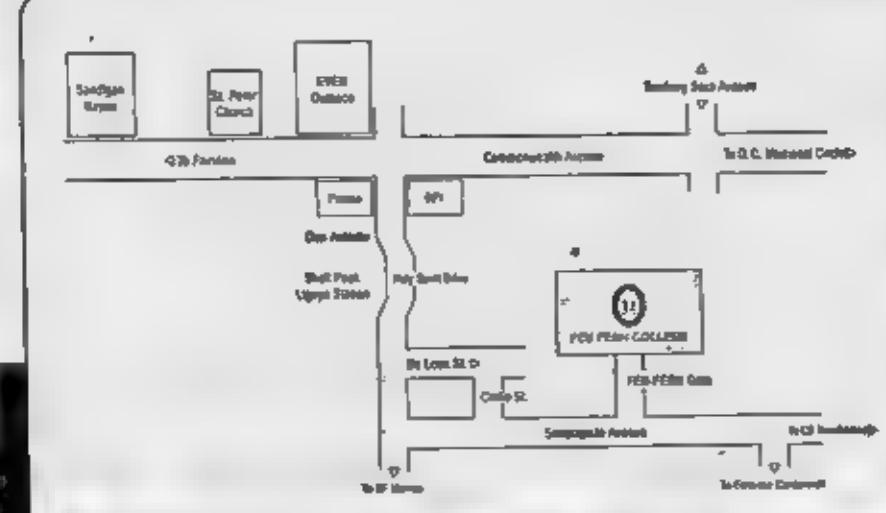
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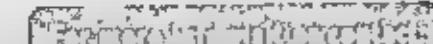
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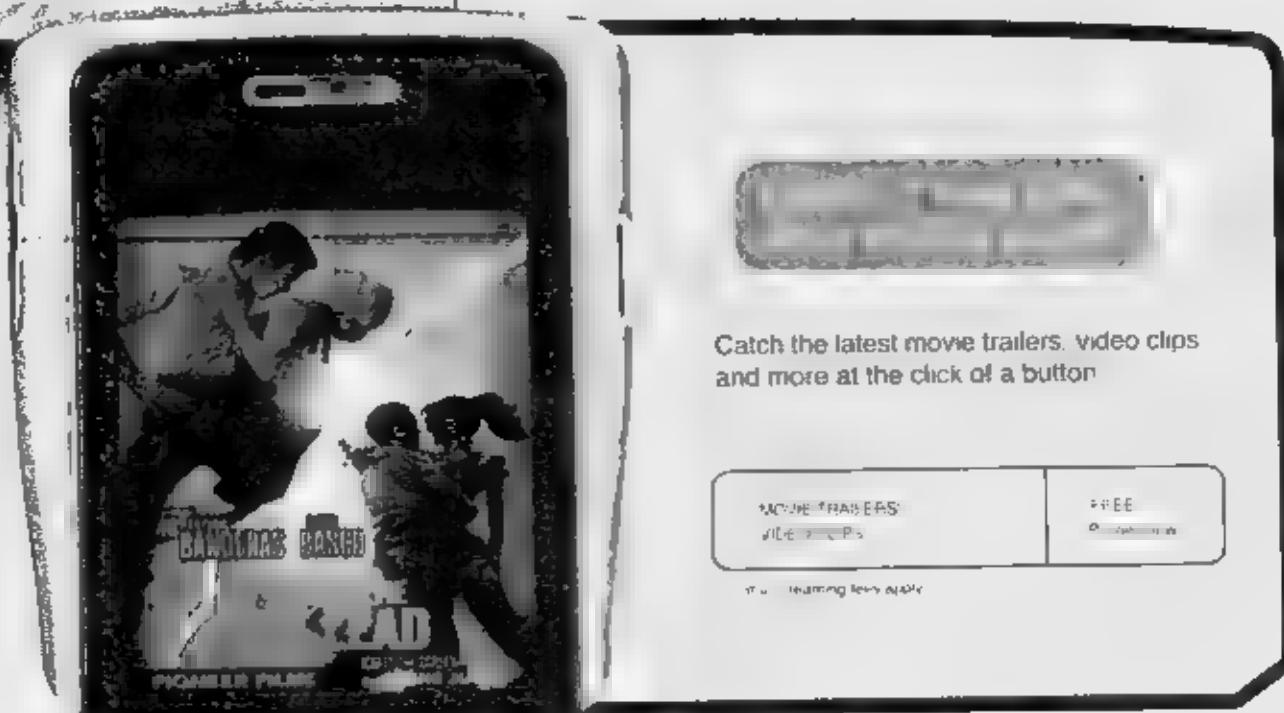
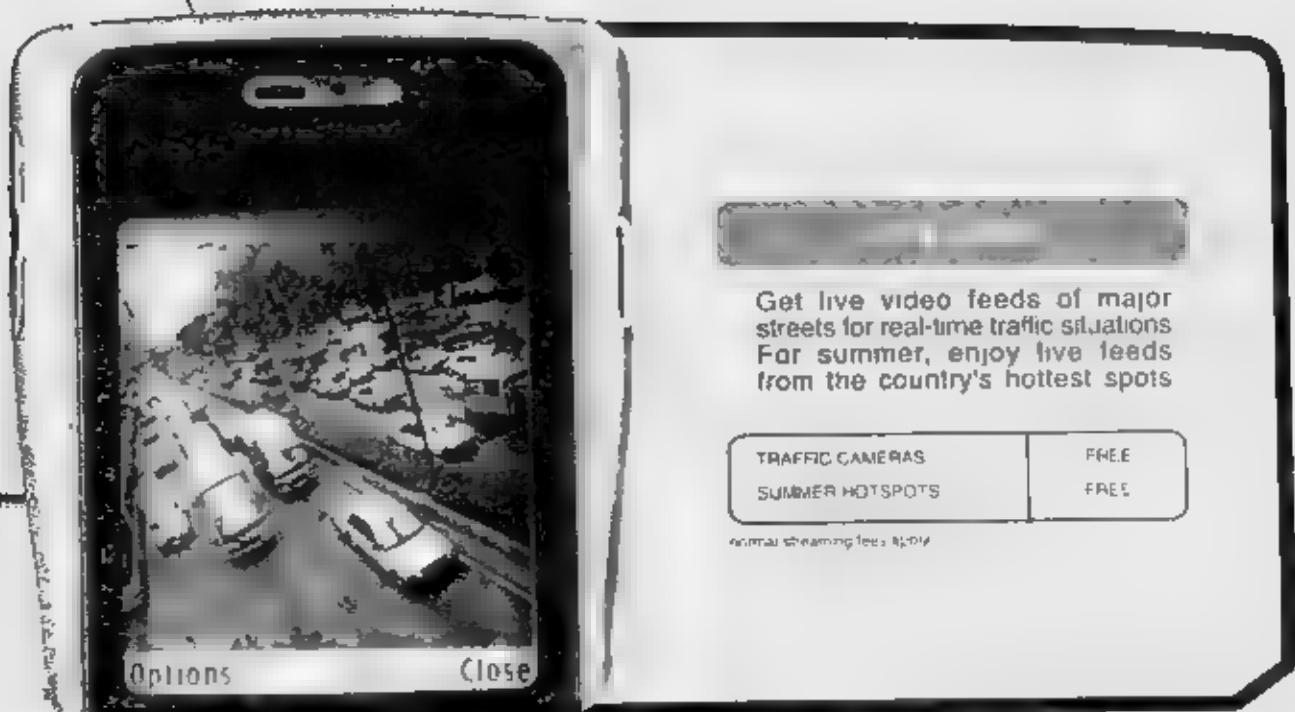
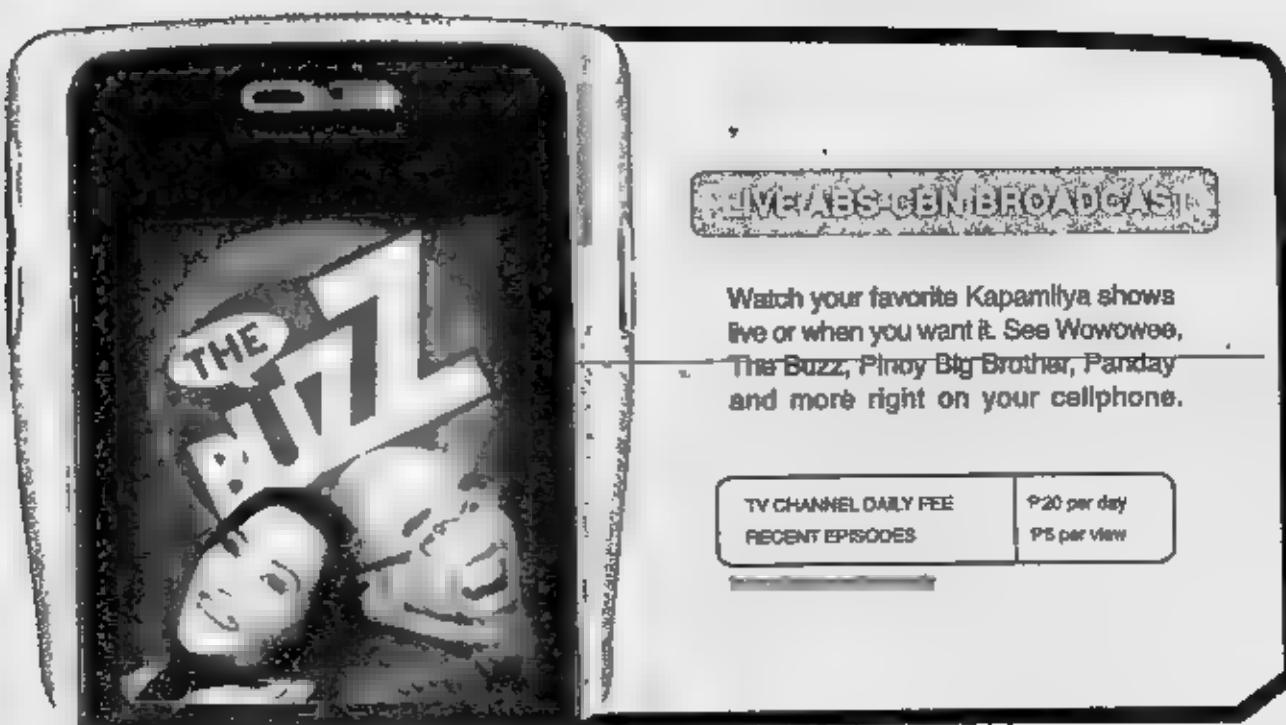
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Brazen

HAS THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD GOVERNMENT lost completely its sense of right and wrong? Only last January, PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio defied senators in a legislative hearing by refusing to answer a simple question: Does President Macapagal-Arroyo know of the agency's negotiations on a compromise regarding the coconut levy funds with Marcos crony Eduardo Cojuangco? Since then,

EDITORIALS the PCGG has apparently become more brazen. Today, it's PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede who is going around town proudly trumpeting his "exploratory" talks with the Marcoses for a 70-30 sharing of their ill-gotten wealth.

Aside from millions of pesos he says the government can save from withdrawing the cases filed in court against the Marcoses, Abcede is trying to justify this latest PCGG proposal with Imeldic flair. He has been quoting Imelda Marcos as saying that "the Marcos assets are enough to pay our national debt, plus more." That means about P4 trillion flowing back into government coffers—if one can take Imelda at her word.

To say that's a staggering amount is to state the obvious—and to miss the key significance of her fantastic claim. For what it really amounts to is an admission of plunder of unimaginable proportions. There is simply no other way the Marcoses could have come by such fabulous wealth.

Is the sheer magnitude of the sums the government supposedly stands to recover reason enough to forgive and forget their crime? It is for Abcede. "I don't care about the moral issues involved," he flatly declares. "Part of our mandate is the recovery of the Marcos wealth. And the negotiations are within our mandate."

To him, it doesn't matter either that the Supreme Court ruled in 1998 that the PCGG has no mandate to grant criminal and civil immunity or tax exemptions to the Marcoses; and that such a grant would be a "direct encroachment on judicial powers, particularly with regard to criminal jurisdiction."

In that same ruling, the Court also warned that a compromise agreement on ill-gotten wealth cases would be tantamount to giving "a license to perpetrate fraud against the government without any liability" and would set "a dangerous precedent for public accountability."

Celebrating corruption

DANILO RAMOS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, has assailed the PCGG's "new and pragmatic" tack in recovering ill-gotten wealth. "The primary issue here is justice and not only actual recovery of the ill-gotten wealth," he pointed out.

But not for today's PCGG. From Abcede's pronouncements, the quest for ill-gotten wealth must be guided solely by the dictates of pragmatism, and any other consideration is irrelevant. It must be practicality over principle. Money over morality.

With this new guidepost, plunderers have all the reasons to rejoice. For what is there for them to fear now? Lifestyle checks? They can always buy their way out of trouble if the price is right.

In fact, what the government can do for the Marcoses, it might as well do for the Estradas. If the government can't recover all of the Estradas' alleged ill-gotten wealth, it might as well settle with them under a 70-30 sharing scheme. That means abandoning the plunder cases against them, with the immediate effect of saving a couple of million pesos or whatever it would cost the government to pursue the case being heard by the Sandiganbayan.

Then the government should also drop the cases against other government officials, high and low, found to have amassed millions in unexplained wealth. That's the fair thing to do if the most corrupt leaders the country has known, and their families and cronies, will be allowed to go unpunished and to enjoy their loot.

If what Abcede is proposing becomes policy, it will send the message to potential grafters that if they wish to steal from the national treasury, they should steal big-time. And the bigger the loot, the better the chance that they will get to enjoy it. Because the more they can offer to return, the easier it is for the government to forgive and forget that the law has been violated. All that matters is money, money and more money.

Plunder has become a crime punishable with a compromise. Justice no longer matters. The PCGG is setting the stage for the celebration of corruption.

THE ISSUE WAS NOT WHETHER EO 464 WAS valid or void but how the Supreme Court would decide. Its delay in doing so, whether for or against the presidential order, made the waiting more apprehensive.

The reason for this anxiety was the official provenance of the high tribunal as now constituted. Except for two of its members, all the sitting justices have been appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo. The 13 others include the Chief Justice himself who, while initially chosen by a previous president, owes his present position to the author of EO 464.

Utang na loob, or gratitude, is a traditional virtue of our people. It is an honorable motivation in ordinary social and other relations, including business, professional and political ties. All other things being equal, its influence will innocently tip the balance in favor of the person to whom it is honestly owed. Such person will naturally expect reciprocal graciousness for his or her previous goodwill.

The justices knew, of course, that the nullification of EO 464 would embarrass President Arroyo, no matter how bravely she might appear to accept the humiliation. Nor particularly known for her forgiving nature, GMA might conceivably change her former animosity (or patronage) with indifference if not actual hostility. These were consequences they would have to expect if they should be so rash as to alienate her.

I mentioned these possibilities several times in this column to express my worries over the impartiality of the present Supreme Court. I said that during my time, the members of the high tribunal, who were all appointed by President Corazon Aquino, did not hesitate to rule against her in several cases involving constitutional issues. I hoped that the present justices would also render their rulings objectively, in-

'Utang na loob'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

dependently of their personal feelings as we did.

Thankfully, I find that they have done exactly that. The morning their decision was announced, I went to the Supreme Court to get a copy of it. It was superbly written by Justice Conchita Carpio Morales and concurred in by all the other magistrates except Justice Reynato S. Puno, who was on official leave. Even Justice Presbitero J. Velasco Jr., who had just joined the Court, signed with the other members to make their sentiment unanimous.

The Court en banc held that the challenged order impinged on the inherent power of inquiry now expressly recognized in Congress or any of its committees when exercised in aid of legislation, subject to the specified limitations. The decision ruled, although it did not directly say so, that in preventing her subordinates from appearing in any legislative investigation without her consent, President Arroyo violated Art. VI, Sec. 21 of the Constitution.

The decision adequately discussed the concept of executive privilege as an exemption from the power of legislative inquiry. The basis for the exception, it said, was the reasons against the investigation—viz., crucial military or diplomatic objectives, the source of the information sought, and confidential official deliberations—to be clearly established and not merely assumed or implied. After examining applicable jurisprudence here and in the United States, the Court held that no such reasons



could excuse EO 464.

Among the cases cited by Justice Morales was United States v. Richard M. Nixon, 418 US 863, where the respondent invoked executive privilege in refusing to surrender certain tapes and documents connected with the Watergate scandal. The US Supreme Court rejected his defense. Our own Supreme Court also disallowed GMA's claim of executive privilege in the present case. However, it did this ever so decorously, and with careful protectiveness of Ms Arroyo, that her minions are now fatuously crowing her victory!

The Court discussed other reasons for annulling the challenged order, among them the people's right to information on the matters being investigated by Congress and the ineffectiveness of the order for lack of its publication as required by due process. But to spare the bedraggled President from further discomfiture, it held that the appearance of executive officials at the question hour could not be compelled under Sec. 22 of the same Article.

Morales' *ponencia* deserves congratulation for its excellent craftsmanship. With exceptional tact, she rebuked the President of the Philippines without actually doing so, probably because of her exalted rank or, no less likely, of *utang na loob*. It was a *taut de force* that practically absolved the acknowledged benefactor even as, unavoidably, it could not evade faulting her. The bomb sputtered but did not explode.

For being excessively deferential to Ms Arroyo, the Supreme Court withheld the judicial indignation it should have exhibited, as the conscience of the government, against the serious constitutional affront. Instead of serving as a stern warning against further presidential audacities, the *ponencia* merely made the timid motion of a slap on the wrist. It was like spanking a pampered child with a felt slipper.

'I' witness

MOMENTS

Pr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD



issues confronting us today. Being a prophet and being persecuted for being one are an integral part of our being witnesses to the Word in the world. Have you ever been persecuted because of your faith? If not, maybe, because you are more focused on the profits and not on being a prophet.

One more day and it's May, the month of flowers, the month of Mary. Once again, as we go through the many problems and issues that confront us as a people and as a nation, let us hold on to our mother who is deeply aware of the sufferings of her children. Soon, the good will be rewarded, and the evildoers will be cast down. Lying and falsehood are not forever. Righteousness, truth and justice will prevail in our beloved land. Let's pray for this intention in our "Walk with God" to Manaoag on Saturday, May 6, starting at 6 a.m. from Urdaneta church.

Did you know that St. Ezekiel Moreno, canonized in 1990 by Pope John Paul II, was ordained in the Philippines and spent 15 years of his mission work here? On the occasion of his 100th death anniversary and the 400th anniversary of the Augustinian Recollects in the Philippines, Fr. Ferdinand Hernando, OAR, together with co-workers Sonja Roco, Rose Orbos, Boying Banzon and others, is organizing a caravan that will start in Batan on May 1 and in Pangasinan on May 3 and 4.

Did you read how one newspaper highlighted the issue of death penalty? "Bliblid or Not?" As we go through the many struggles and tasks in this life, let us not forget some humor.

A moment with the Lord:
Lord, heal me of my "I" disease, so that I can be an "I" witness to your love and peace. Amen.

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A TEACHER who asked a boy what would happen if she cut off one of his ears.

"My hearing will be affected," was the boy's response.

"What if I cut off both of your ears?" the teacher pushed on.

"My vision will be affected, ma'am," he replied. "Why?"

"Because my eyeglasses would fall," the boy explained.

In today's Gospel (Lk 24, 35-48), the Risen Lord again helps the disciples to hear, see and understand the resurrection and the subsequent mission that goes with it. The Lord tries to make them go beyond their initial doubts, fears, amazement and joy, and slowly leads them toward the mission outside themselves.

And so it can happen that if we are glued to our personal quests and questionings, we may never move on toward the big world out there—a world that awaits our love, service, friendship and sharing.

"You are witnesses of these things." Has it ever occurred to you that by virtue of your Christian baptism, you are supposed to be witnesses of the good news? We all are supposed to be bearers and promoters of Christian values.

Nowadays, we hear of personalities who are product endorsers. I understand that they get paid a lot for endorsing this or that particular brand. Every Christian is and should be an endorser of Christ. What are you endorsing in your life? Aside from yourself, whom are you endorsing and promoting in your life?

Sorry. There are no material perks when you become an endorser of Christ. There are no tal-

ent fees or endorsement fees involved. (If you happen to have such perks, maybe you are not endorsing him fully!) But one thing sure, there is meaning and peace—a kind of peace which the world cannot give or take away. They who truly endorse Christ may often have empty hands, but they have fully loaded hearts, laden with peace and love. And the returns are really "out of this world!"

The best cure for the "I" disease is to remove one's focus from the self and shift it instead on others, especially the suffering and less fortunate. Recently, I was at the Philippine Children's Hospital for a Mass when I experienced an unforgettable moment: I was asked to bless the little children at the ICU.

It is heartbreaking to see people suffer, but doubly heartbreaking to see little children suffer. God must feel sad when He sees His children suffer, and doubly sad when He sees the little children and the little ones in our society suffer.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz mentioned in his homily, during Bishop Mario Peralta's installation as coadjutor of the diocese of Alaminos last April 28, the threefold task of the bishops, the clergy and the laity: to teach, to sanctify and to bear witness as prophets. The good archbishop noted that the hardest thing to do is the third task where, admittedly, we have often failed. For example, it is not easy to stand up for Christ on the socio-economic-political

Revolt of the retired generals

REVEILLE



Ramon J. Farolan

LAST WEEK, SIX RETIRED SENIOR GENERALS of the US armed forces publicly criticized Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and called for his ouster. Never before has a sitting defense secretary been subjected to such a scathing public rebuke from former military leaders. According to the April 24 issue of Time magazine, "the retired generals are taking on their boss not over policy or budgets but the operation of an on-going war ... and there is some evidence that the retirees are speaking for other generals on active duty."

Some of their comments:

Gen. Anthony Zinni, former commander of the US Central Command which has overall responsibility for the conduct of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan—"Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld is not competent to lead our armed forces ... he has shown himself incompetent strategically, operationally and tactically and, far more than anyone else, responsible for what has happened to our mission in Iraq. Mr. Rumsfeld must step down."

Maj. Gen. Paul Eaton, former US commander for training Iraqi forces—"We went to war with a flawed plan that didn't account for the hard work to build the peace after we took down the regime. We also served under a Secretary of Defense who didn't understand leadership, who was abusive, who was arrogant, who didn't build a strong team."

Maj. Gen. John Ruggs—"Rumsfeld and his advisers grossly underestimated the number of soldiers required for the stability phase. They only need the military advise when it satisfies their agenda. I think that's a mistake and that's why I think he should resign."

Lt. Gen. Gregory Newbold, former Director of Operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff—"The commitment of our forces to this fight was done with a casualness and swagger that are the special province of those who had never had to execute these missions—or bury the results ... a fundamentally flawed plan was executed for an invented war; while pursuing the real enemy, al-Qaeda, became a secondary effort."

Ironically, the one officer who warned Secretary Rumsfeld early in the day that occupying Iraq would require several hundred thousand troops was not among those calling for his resignation.

In June 1999, President Bill Clinton appointed Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, of West Point class 1965, as the 34th US army chief of staff. He became the first military officer of Japanese ancestry to hold the position; and the highest-ranking Asian-American soldier in US military history. Unfortunately, his tour of duty as chief of staff was marked by clashes with Pentagon officials, specifically Rumsfeld and his deputy Paul Wolfowitz, now president of the World Bank.

Sometime in 2003, Shinseki testified in Congress that a large number of troops would be required for Iraq. This was based on his experience as head of a peacekeeping force in Bosnia. For his remarks—which were in conflict with the swift, lean force advocated by Rumsfeld—Shinseki was publicly castigated by Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz. He became a lame duck with the early announcement of his successor. Both Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz stayed away from Shinseki's retirement ceremony in June 2003.

At that time, I was in the United States visiting my grandchildren in Illinois. I recall Shinseki's remarks at the farewell ceremonies marking his retirement from the military service. He began by saying, "My name is Shinseki and I am a soldier—an American soldier who was born in the midst of World War II, began his service in Vietnam and retires today in the midst of war in Afghanistan and Iraq. Soldiering is an honorable profession and I

am privileged to have served every day for the past 38 years as a soldier."

Dwelling on the distinction between command and effective leadership, Shinseki explained that "command is about authority, about appointment to a position. Effective leadership is different. It must be learned and practiced in order for it to rise to the level of art." He went on to say "You must love those you lead before you can be an effective leader. You can certainly command without that sense of commitment but you cannot lead without it; and without leadership, command is a hollow experience ... a vacuum often filled with mistrust and arrogance."

He ended his remarks with the line with which he started, "My name is Shinseki and I am a soldier. God bless all of you and your families. Thank you and goodbye."

As retired officers, we continue to have a stake in the future of our country. It is our duty to speak out whenever we see something wrong in the way our armed forces is being handled by the civilian leadership. I realize that many of our retired officers hold comfortable jobs in government corporations or agencies. They may not be inclined to publicly express opinions unfavorable to the administration. On the other hand, officers on active status are not allowed to engage in public debates, and so they operate in an environment of silence and obedience. That leaves only the retired group to take the lead in any critical review of government policies that affect the armed forces.

Rumsfeld and Bush may shrug off the revolt of the retired generals, but there is no doubt that it has created considerable discomfort in the Pentagon and the White House.

Tomorrow is the 76th birth anniversary of Alex Melchor Jr. To commemorate the event, family and friends will gather for Mass at noon at the Holy Family Chapel in Virra Mall Greenhills. Lunch follows at Club Filipino.

Celebrating fandom

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

consist mainly of poses and facial mannerisms. At times, one can even catch him sneaking a furtive look at the camera when he shouldn't.

So it's safe to say that the movie succeeds despite them, which is why I hope producers don't attribute any magical box-office prowess to the youngsters. Instead, they should pay attention to the newly gained clout of Pokwang and Domingo who, like Ai-Ai de las Alas, labored in obscurity before proving that screen charisma has little to do with an actor's looks or figure, and everything to do with the ability to connect with the audience.

Perhaps it also helps that "D' Lucky Ones" takes a fond look at fandom, an occupational hazard for any consumer of entertainment fare, and the lengths fans go just to pay homage to their object of affection, adoration and adulation. The "Nora" and "Vilma" fans are particularly fascinating, since the two women commanded extraordinary levels of loyalty in their heyday and even today, no matter the intriguing twists and turns of their life stories.

MY friend Peachy and I—whom I roped into watching "D' Lucky Ones" after all family members refused my importuning—had an interesting discussion about the nature of Vilmanians and Noranians. We both agreed that the overall tone of the movie, which is "happy" and "sunny" and pastel-toned, wouldn't have been possible if it had been about Nora's fans. And this is because Nora's oeuvre is dominated by darker and grimmer movies that don't lend themselves easily to comic parody or satire.

I consider myself a Noranian, but the film

turned me into a Vilmanian, and when Ate Vi no less turned up at the movie's finale, I felt a thrill, vicariously diving into Pokwang's and Eugene's obsession. I also felt a surge of appreciation and gratitude for the work of Vilma and Nora, who have dominated show business in the last decades, coming up with a truly admirable line-up of movies, showing courage in their choice of new challenges and off-beat characters, and maintaining a hold on their fans' affections.

Fans can be pests, that's true. They tend to take their "ownership" over their idols much too seriously to the extent of stalking them, dictating their love lives and setting up outsize expectations. But over the years, they can provide a source of affirmation and validation, especially when the bloom of one's stardom has started to fade.

Neither is this a one-way street. As Pokwang's character reveals, watching Vilma's movies and tracking her career provided her the only source of solace in the years she spent as a contract wife in Korea, looked down upon by her in-laws and reduced to a superfluity. Indeed, amid the vexations of daily life, being a fan provides escape and entertainment, another level of reality and a pleasant diversion. Not a bad bargain, that.

PERFECT for the still-searing heat of the season is New Selecta Lite, a new line of ice cream that is, so the maker claims, "94 percent fat free and has 35 percent less sugar." Tubs of this new line of ice cream were hand-delivered to my home, and I lost no time sampling the samples.

I had a taste of "Very Rocky Road" and I can vouch for the rich creamy flavor, unlike the bland fat-free versions I tried in the United States. For a diabetic like me, indulging in ice cream is truly a guilty pleasure, so Selecta Lite is a welcome addition to my freezer, mitigating (if not entirely eliminating) the sin and the dietary crime.

Aside from Very Rocky Road, Selecta Lite also comes in two other flavor variants: Double Dutch and Cookies and Cream. Who says you can't have your ice cream and guilt-less enjoyment, too?

The end of consensual politics

PUBLIC LIVES



Randy David

NOT A FEW PEOPLE FROM BOTH THE opposition and the administration were surprised by the launching of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Cha-cha Express. The resort to "people's initiative" as the vehicle for Charter change effectively demobilizes Congress. It transfers political debate from the halls of Congress to the uncharted terrain of public forums and mass actions. This open-ended political space is not particularly hospitable to politicians; its agenda cannot be controlled.

In many ways, what we are witnessing here is the end of consensual politics. This is a direct off-shoot of the inability of the political system to arrive at a satisfactory closure of the issues thrust upon it. This failure breeds intense mutual distrust, and encourages a zero-sum approach to politics. The government believes it can no longer deal with the opposition-dominated Senate; so it seeks its abolition. The opposition believes it can no longer deal with Ms Arroyo; so it seeks her ouster.

This is not the way politics is supposed to work. Politics is supposed to serve as society's mechanism for arriving at collectively binding decisions. In stable democracies, such decisions are the outcomes of reasoned debate between the government and the opposition, or between the majority party and the minority party. The clarity of the arguments and the transparency of the procedures for arriving at a consensus create legitimacy for the whole system. The decisions that the system regularly churns out assume the force of law and are accepted by the public.

We know that our political system has ground to a halt when every year, for the last four years, we failed twice to pass the national budget and twice to pass it on time. The budget is supposed to mirror a nation's targets and priorities. Throughout Ms Arroyo's presidency, we have had to make do with a reenacted or "delayed" budget, as if

sion. Instead of stabilizing notions of what is legal and illegal, the high court's ruling may have unwittingly provided ammunition that both sides can use to shoot one another.

In the final analysis, we cannot expect the judicial system to resolve problems that are basically political in origin. Locked in conflict, the parties are bound to read even the clearest court ruling through the prism of their respective political agendas.

Thus, political questions must be resolved politically. Where Congress loses its function as an instrument of consensual politics, we may increasingly be treated to the spectacle of legislators marching in the streets alongside leaders of social movements. We caught a glimpse of this seemingly strange alliance at the recent launching of "STOP (Sa Tamang Oras at Panahon) Cha-cha"—a broad coalition of politicians and social activists, aimed at derailing Ms Arroyo's push for Charter change through people's initiative. It is too early to say how this tactical partnership will progress and what new political combinations it will spawn. One thing is sure though: the present political system has reached its breaking point. One cannot imagine how this can be reversed.

The present political crisis started as a crisis of presidential legitimacy. Now it is engulfing the whole political system. When the issues against the President began to accumulate, the administration found itself calling upon the coercive powers of the state to block the flow of information. Every unresolved issue generates more pressure that the administration is unable to contain without doing further damage to the other institutions of government.

This is how political systems die. But their passing signifies the birth of new visions and the tapping of new sources of legitimacy.

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Longest sigh of relief

LAST NIGHT, I HAD A DREAM.

In my dream, four little green monsters, wearing shirts emblazoned with Spanish conjugations, were rushing toward me, screaming gibberish and waving pitchforks. I ran for my life, wailing the one phrase I knew. "No comprendo, no comprendo!"

I woke up to an alarm clock gone mad. Nine-forty in the morning. By the time I popped off the bed, I was on adrenaline high.

I'm not a morning person—in the five-second scramble to the bathroom, the panic reaches mammoth proportions.

My brain takes a while to kick into gear, but when it does, everything comes slamming in like a 16-wheeler truck: 40 more pages of thesis to revise before one o'clock, a Spanish quiz in the afternoon, not to mention a grand total of 19 minutes to get dressed, jump into a jeep and sprint to class before the professor locks the door.

Then boom, realization. It's the sweetest feeling in the world.

I was a graduate last Saturday, among several hundred others standing under the blinding heat of an April sun. I've never been asked to follow a dress code in my whole stay at UP—after all, a college that permits a bunch of fraternity men to run buck naked through the campus is not exactly in a position to tell students what to wear. But for this one occasion, graduation, the rule was white to off-white, with a ban on sleeveless tops, halters, spaghetti straps, tubes and hemis above the knee—for both boys and girls, naturally. You never know what to expect.

And in the grand tradition of the University of the Philippines, nobody followed the dress code—except for me and few other gullible souls. I spent a good part of graduation trying to pull down my neckline.

My department, Speech Communications and Theater Arts, was one of the last to be called. I was shifting from foot to foot when one of the Theater guys' name was called. A couple of canons shot streamers into the air, balloons brought up a banner that declared the young gentleman as "Wagna Cum Lande" (sic), while members of the Pep Squad raced to the front and joined him in the UP cheer. The final stunt—theater boy gets tossed up, pumps a fist into the air, and spreads his arms to the sky. He does all this in the space of a few minutes while dressed in a berong tagalog and black leather shoes.

I began thinking feverishly for a stunt to pull myself. Then, in my head, I saw myself being thrown into the air and my skirt ballooning over my face. I decided the prudent thing to do was to worship from afar.

While waiting for my name to be called, my mother kept warning me not to trip. "Don't you dare," she said. She insisted my father hold on to my arm. A minute before I was called, she grabbed my father's other arm, "Hon, hold on to me, I wore the wrong shoe, I might trip." My hapless father was left trying to assist two women teetering on high heels, clutching his arms up the stage. Compared to the months of panic, tension and sheer, unadulterated exhaustion, getting my diploma seemed anticlimactic.

Graduation has a particularly insidious side effect (read: boredom). Having time on my hands now feels as awkward as wearing those garterized bloomers in fourth grade PE class. Yesterday, I found myself wandering around the campus, plodding from building to building with nothing in particular to do. I bought a 10-peso romance novel, a bottle of iced tea and sat down on a bench to reflect about the future. As I'm not the type to sit on benches reflecting—especially when reflection leads to the grim conclusion that my bank balance is in the double digits—I lasted two minutes before I was flagging down a jeep.

My grandfather, my mom's dad, was a writer himself. When I was 12, he found out I was harboring illusions of becoming a writer, too. He called me to his study, and proceeded to inform me that writing was a thankless job, and that he wanted no granddaughter of his to go through what he did. That being said, he asked if I was still planning to write. I said yes. He shook his head, picked up one of his perpetual blue markers and wrote something on a sheet of note paper. I must have lost that sheet the same day, but I remember what it said. "1st topic: What I will be when I grow up. Submit to Lolo by Friday. Ten pesos."

Eight years later, after several career shifts (I wanted to be a philosopher, a spy, a lawyer, an astronaut, a public relations practitioner, a princess and a race car driver), I'm back to square one. What I'll be when I grow up is still up in the air—as no one who knows me will even remotely suggest that I'm "grown-up." Most of my friends have been going to job interview after job interview, while my resumes are floating out there somewhere waiting to be considered.

As I'm currently in limbo, I've been working on widening my Filipino vocabulary with a new genre I've just recently discovered: Tagalog romances. The last one I read had Julius Caesar "JC" Ledesma—"The Black-hearted Devil," scion of a multibillion-peso construction empire—finding his match in the daughter of one of his employees. Now if some "handsome, gorgeous, rich and powerful" 29-year-old multi-billionaire would like to save me from my uncertainties, I wouldn't mind at all. Applications can be sent to the e-mail address indicated below.

When people think of graduation, most of them remember marching down the aisle, or the whoops and cheers and tossed togas. They remember the hugs from much-feared professors, the promises of eternal friendship, the instant when the diploma was given.

Me, I'll never forget this morning—the moment when I stared into the bathroom mirror, bleary-eyed, half-blind, thoroughly flustered, finally realizing that I will never, ever, have to worry about little green monsters with Spanish accents, again.

Comments to pat.evangelista@gmail.com

THEY SAID

No secrets

"Except perhaps for affairs of the heart, (ahet nang gagawin ni Mike aton ni Gloria)." (Everything Mike does is known to Gloria.)

—Cleto Macapagal-Salgado, half-sister of President Macapagal-Arroyo

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

TALK of the TOWN

Where the jobs are

IN JANUARY, 2.8 MILLION FILIPINOS WERE JOBLESS, 6.9 MILLION were seeking additional jobs and 1.1 million had stopped looking for work apparently because they could not find any, according to data from the National Statistics Office.

That's a total of 10.8 million people out of the 36-million workforce who need jobs.

The numbers show that the country is facing an employment crisis, a situation not lost on the tens of thousands of Filipinos leaving for work abroad every year.

But the Department of Labor and Employment does not call it a crisis,

saying that jobs are aplenty. The unemployment problem is due to a mismatch between the skills for available jobs and the skills of those seeking work, according to the labor department.

Trade Secretary Peter Pavila has another explanation for the unemployment problem. "We have plenty of jobs available in the country today, but the problem is some Filipinos are just choosy," he said.

It's a statement that millions of jobless workers will find outrageous.

If jobs are available in the country, Filipinos will not leave for work overseas despite the social costs that go with earning a living far from home.

Seven sectors could create 4 million opportunities

By Jay T. Julian

THE MEDIUM TERM PHILIPPINE Development Plan 2005-2010 underscores the importance of creating decent employment opportunities in alleviating poverty. To realize this goal, government efforts are geared toward enhancing sectors identified as key employment generators.

During the 2006 National Manpower Summit on March 2, nine sectors were identified that would require a great number of workers equipped with specific knowledge and skills. These are:

1. Cyberservices
2. Agribusiness
3. Aviation
4. Hotel and restaurant
5. Medical tourism
6. Health services
7. Mining
8. Creative industries and
9. Overseas employment

The sectors' key informants and stakeholders, who participated in the second pre-summit consultation workshops, said around 577,718 and 692,004 job opportunities were expected to be generated in 2006 and 2007, respectively. Between 2006 and 2010, a total of 4,081 million jobs are expected to be created in the key sectors (See Table.)

Customer care

Some jobs under each sector would grow faster than the others. In the next four years, five subsectors would account for nearly 80 percent of the total number of projected jobs.

These are customer care (735,500) and back office processing (393,100), aquaculture (338,287) and crop production (1,480,260), and food and beverage (281,040).

Ensuring that these job opportunities are filled up by qualified workers—those able to meet standards set by the industry—is a challenge to both government and the private sector.

While these sectors offer a great number of employment opportunities for job seekers, some of these sectors are already experiencing difficulties in getting the right workers.

Skills shortage

While shortages of skills are said to be pronounced in some occupations and areas in the country, oversupply of other skills are likewise observed.

For example, employment opportunities for cyberservices are estimated at 1,383,892 compared with the projected number of 1,791,489 professionals for 2006-2010.

Nevertheless, graduates of the various cyberservices disciplines are projected to reach 1,633,605 from 2006 to 2010.

In the hotel and restaurant sector, jobs would grow by 400,280 but there would only be 95,294 graduates of that discipline during the same period.

This "square-pegs, round-holes" phenomenon has significantly affected the operations of the labor market, including several of the nine sectors. As a result of this

demand-and-supply bottleneck, a great number of job opportunities may not be filled up.

This dire situation might be further aggravated as changes in manpower requirements become more rapid given the fast-changing demand for skills in the global labor market in which the Philippines is a major supplier.

The National Manpower Summit tackled ways of addressing structural unemployment.

Geographic mismatch

Structural unemployment basically results from a mismatch between the skills for available jobs and the skills possessed by those seeking work, and from geographic mismatch between locations of job openings and job seekers (McConnell et al., 2003).

During the summit, initial steps were laid down to create ripples of doable and strategic reports.

Arturo Sodista, assistant labor secretary for programs and policy, presented an action agenda that was formulated to ensure that (1) jobs (with specific competencies) that are in-demand are identified in the short- and medium-terms,

(2) linkages between an industry and schools and training institutions are at work, and (3) the types of workers needed by emerging industries in the country and the rest of the world are generated.

The stakeholders should be aggressive in finding ways to address the problems and gaps in the matching of the labor demand and supply. For its part, the government through its various agencies is ready to mitigate the adverse effects of acute manpower shortages—especially those caused by migration—that are being experienced by some sectors.

Prior notice

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration plans to evaluate industries experiencing a shortage of mission-critical skills, according to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

In local industries with a shortage of workers, a six-month prior notice rule has been proposed for those who desire to take up jobs abroad. Pilots and aircraft mechanics are subject to this rule effective April 1.

On the supply side, the labor secretary proposed the creation of opportunities advisory boards in schools to help students decide which college course would bring them employment after graduation.

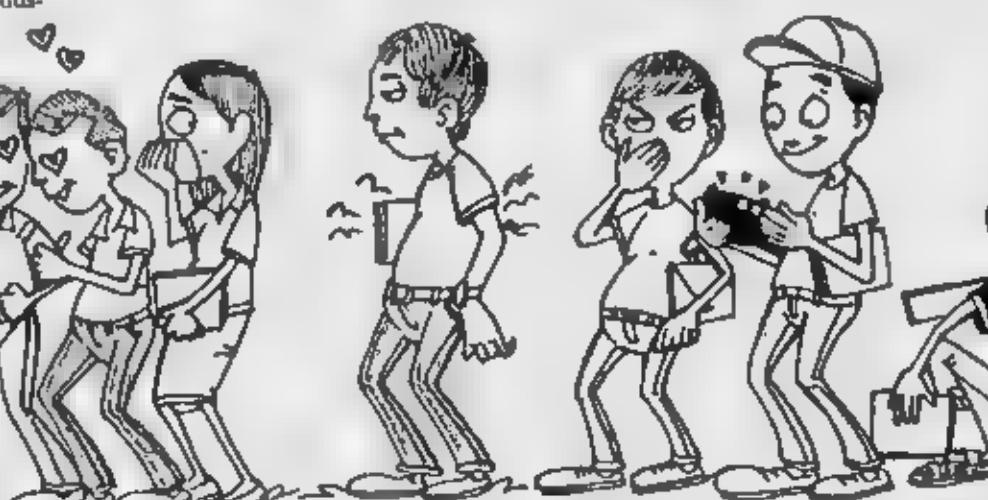
Re-training of instructors, revision of curricula and incentives may also be given to schools with a high number of employable graduates. Bridging courses and additional training may be provided to those who had graduated but remained unemployed.

Government scholarships and study grants may also be offered to students planning to work in vital industries.

(Julian is the officer in charge of the Information and Publication Service of the Department of Labor and Employment.)

Projected number of new jobs by sector			
Sector	2006	2007	2008-2010
1. Agribusiness	329,609	372,317	2,044,161
2. Cyberservices	148,350	204,146	1,383,890
3. Hotels & Restaurants	56,001	69,028	400,280
4. Medical Tourism	25,310	25,310	128,150
5. Health Services	8,068	9,455	58,003
6. Mining	6,872	7,298	39,382
7. Aviation	3,710	4,450	27,581
TOTAL	577,718	692,004	4,081,447

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT



Fairs no match to employment shortage

By Clarence Pascual

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR and Employment (DOLE) is sorely amiss for insisting that a job skills mismatch is behind the current job crisis and that more job fairs and training will bring down unemployment.

The current job crisis can be attributed not to a skills mismatch but to a massive mismatch between the number of jobs the economy is generating and the number of jobless workers.

Job fairs and training are not enough to resolve the huge jobs deficit. The government must raise the ability of the economy to employ a rapidly growing and increasingly skilled labor force.

Vacancies

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas earlier said that there were thousands of quality jobs left unfilled due to a mismatch between the skills required and the skills possessed by applicants, implying that there was no shortage of jobs in the labor market.

She cited the 50,000 vacancies posted on the Phil-Jobnet system, an on-line job search system maintained by the DOLE. Of this number, however, 35 percent or 18,000 consist of overseas jobs. That leaves only 32,000 vacancies in the country.

Recently, the government launched a tourism job fair, with some 30,000 jobs on offer, according to organizers. Many of the jobs on offer are not actual vacancies. "For labor pooling only" reads the brochure of a number of participating manpower agencies.

Sto. Tomas has repeatedly argued that "there are quality jobs available, [but] the

problem lies in mismatch or the challenge of filling them up with qualified" workers.

Unemployment rate

Even if there is no skills mismatch, job fairs are not likely to make a dent on the high unemployment rate. In Metro Manila alone, the unemployment rate is a high 18.4 percent in January 2006, compared with the national average of 10.7 percent, according to the National Statistics Office.

Jobless workers in Metro Manila reached 926,000 in the same month. Add to this another one million unemployed workers in Central Luzon and the Calabarzon area.

Joblessness is particularly acute among young people. In January 2005 there were some 1.8 million unemployed workers aged 15-24 or an unemployment rate of 22.2 percent, compared with the average of 10.7 percent for workers of all ages.

Women

Women workers in the 15-24 age group have the highest unemployment rate at 25 percent, compared with 20.5 percent among male counterparts. Their number reached 715,000 in January 2005.

By education, workers with higher educational attainment reported a higher unemployment rate. In 2002, the latest year for which data is available, unemployment among workers with college education was 13.8 percent, compared with 11.6 percent for those with high school education, and 6.0 percent for those with elementary education.

There were 1.3 million jobless workers who had reached college in January 2005, including 668,000 degree holders. High unemployment even among the relatively educated workers indicates the inability of the economy to generate adequate quality jobs.

A closer look at the unfilled vacancies in

the DOLE's Phil-Jobnet system shows that the skills shortage is in occupations hit by significant migration as well as in the fast growing call center and business processes outsourcing (BPO).

Migration

Among the top 20 vacancies currently available in the system include customer service assistants, professional nurses, technical support staff, computer systems engineers, and agents. Some of the posted vacancies are actually overseas jobs.

The high demand for call center and BPO agents simply reflects the rapid growth of the industry combined with high employee turnover owing to industry-specific reasons.

The same pattern of skills shortage is also apparent in the results of the National Manpower Summit which identified some 200,000 potential jobs in several "hard-to-fill" occupations like call center agents, software programmers, trained nurses, waiters, aquaculturists, cooks, finance accountants, skilled miners, animators, aircraft mechanics, and front office attendants.

Workers in these occupations have been leaving the country in droves in recent years, creating shortages in local industries.

Agenda

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself acknowledged the existence of an unemployment crisis when she made job creation the number one item on her administration's 10-point agenda. At the start of her second term in 2004, Ms Arroyo vowed to generate 6 million to 10 million jobs in six years or 1 million to 1.5 million new jobs a year.

Recently, top administration officials have been issuing statements denying the existence

of a jobs crisis, in effect rendering the administration's 10-point agenda irrelevant. Do they have a different agenda?

That would be unfortunate because the numbers show the economy remains mired in a massive job deficit. In 2005, close to 11 million workers or 30 percent of the 32 million strong labor force were looking for work.

This number included over 4 million jobless Filipinos (up from 3 million in 1998, a recession year) and 7 million underemployed workers.

Nor has job creation improved since Ms Arroyo made her promise. In 2005, net job creation was 700,000, less than half the official target, and down from 980,000 the year before.

Prospects

Prospects for the near and medium term do not look any brighter. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) projects GDP growth to average 5 to 6 percent in 2006-2010.

Based on this forecast and using the relationship between job growth and GDP growth in the last seven years, 1998-2005, we estimate annual job creation to range from 700,000 to 850,000. In other words, the administration is likely to miss its annual job creation target until 2010, deepening the current crisis in the labor market.

The worsening job crisis in the midst of respectable economic expansion indicates a fundamental weakness in the current development strategy. Current policies are producing the desired results. We need a new economic strategy.

(Pascual is a senior researcher at the Labor Education and Research Network.)

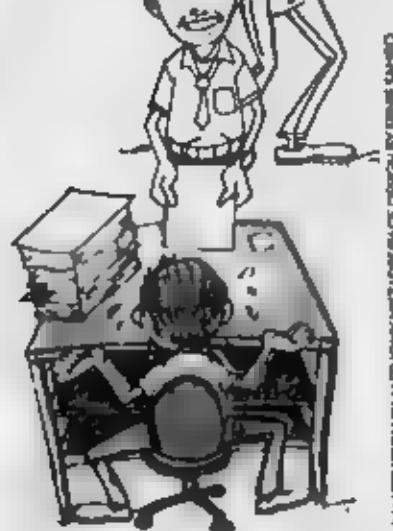


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Bishop vows to use pulpit to stop STL

ILAGAN, ISABELA—BISHOP SERGIO UTLEG HAS vowed to use the power of the pulpit to stop the proposed operation of the Small Town Lottery in Isabela.

Uteg said parish priests in the province's 35 towns and two cities have been very vocal in denouncing any form of gambling because this is "highly immoral to the flock."

He said "jueteng" operators and their protectors could also use the STL as a front for illegal gambling activities.

"These are the same people. STL

will just be used as a cover for illegal gambling. I am sure that corrupt government and police officials would benefit from [STL] operation," Uteg told the INQUIRER.

He said STL licenses are most likely to go to the "same gambling operators who made jueteng thrive in the provinces."

"We will definitely use the pul-

pit to protect our flock. It is our duty," he said.

Uteg said he would meet the province's priests soon to draw up a manifesto against STL.

Isabela board members approved on March 28 the proposed operation of STL in the province, saying it could generate revenues for the province and deter illegal gambling.

They asked the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to include the province as one of the pilot areas where STL would run.

But Board Member Jesus Cruz

cautioned the national government on implementing STL.

"The [national] government should watch out local government officials and policemen who might be tempted to protect illegal gambling activities in the guise of STL operations. So, the implementation here would depend on the system," Cruz said.

"Admittedly, though, [STL] is a better option than jueteng," Cruz added.

Board Member Kyrille Bello

said STL would give jobs to dis-

placed jueteng bet collectors.

"It has been more than a year since jueteng was stopped in the province. Many people are longing for a job and this is an answer to their pleas," Bello said.

Vice Gov. Ramon Reyes, in an earlier interview, said the STL's operation would not corrupt public officials because the proceeds of the game would directly go to the government's coffers.

He said the provincial board has yet to approve any STL franchise applicant in the province.

In Cagayan, Rep. Manuel Mamba, in several broadcasts in his weekly radio program, aired his opposition to a proposed STL operation in his district.

Jacinto Meman, Mamba's chief of staff, said the lawmaker would oppose any attempt to put up STL operations in the capital of Tuguegarao City and towns of Solana, Enriquillo, Pefablanca, Igug, Amulung and Tiao, which compose the third district. Villamor Visaya Jr. with a report from Estanislao Caldes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ROUNDUP

Dogs kill girl

CITY OF MALOLOS—A 5-year-old girl was killed after the family's pet dogs attacked and bit her in the neck in Calumpit, Bulacan, on Thursday. Reports said Channa Erasas died after undergoing surgery at the Bulacan Provincial Hospital, at 1:30 p.m., more than five hours after she was attacked by the family's Pit bulls. Belen Erasas, the victim's grandmother, said she took the dogs out of their cages for their daily bath in the family compound in Barangay Longos. Belen said she thought Channa was inside the house and was surprised when she heard the girl shouting for help. Belen said she wanted to check her granddaughter and was shocked to see the dogs attacking the girl. The dogs were later killed and their heads submitted to the local Department of Agriculture office for rabies examination.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Whale found dead

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A more than 10-foot whale was found dead about 100 meters off the coast of the South China Sea in Sta. Cruz, Zambales, on Thursday. The stench from the decomposing whale led fishermen to the animal, according to Salvador Cortez, a resident of Barangay Malabago. In a phone interview on Friday, the stench was so strong that it caused some residents to vomit he said. Maabago village chief Alejandra Fernandez said this was the first whale seen near his village. He said Department of Agriculture personnel who came to check the find could not yet tell the cause of the death and the species of the whale.

Tonette Orfas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Illegal fishing in Sorsogon

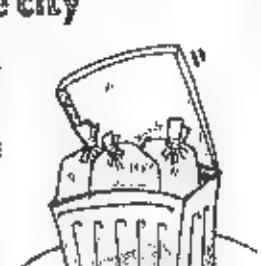
LEGAZPI CITY—Two men were caught in the act of illegal fishing in the waters of Magatanes, Sorsogon at about 9 a.m. April 26. A police report said the suspects—Benjamin Latorra, 41, and Christopher Boter, 27—both residents of Barangay Rizal, Sorsogon City, were caught using a fine mesh net. Police confiscated their motorized boat, fishing tools and their catch.



Ephraim Aquila, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Garbage-free city

LEGAZPI CITY—To make Legazpi garbage-free, the city government will purchase some 200 garbage bins through a P32-million loan from the Philippine National Bank. City solid waste management officer Menjo Ofrecio said the garbage bins will be installed in conspicuous places in 70 barangays in the city where regular garbage collections are scheduled. Ofrecio said that from the same budget, two more garbage compactor trucks will be purchased to help in the city's garbage collection.



Edgar Aleja, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Magayon Fest in Albay

LEGAZPI CITY—This year's Daragang Magayon Festival in Albay will be focused on agriculture. Gov. Fernando V. Gonzalez said on Wednesday that although the three-week festival on May 11-22 will feature fun-filled tourism activities for Albayanos and guests, agriculture will be given top priority to boost growing agribusiness industries such as cultivation of hybrid rice, corn, chili and other products. A mass induction and recognition of achievers will also be held while an Agri Fair Garden will run until May 22 at the Capitol grounds here.

Edgar Aleja, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Tamaraw counting

SAN JOSE OCCIDENTAL MINDORO—At least 45 tamaraw parts—including a Japanese anoa, a centaur, and 45 Mangyan porters, went up to Mt. Ig Ilan in Calantuan town from April 20 to April 26 for the annual tamaraw counting. There were 269 tamaraws last year according to a staff member of the Tamaraw Conservation Program. Results of this week's count will be consolidated for an update of the total tamaraw count in the province.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Lapid says GMA prodded him to challenge BinayBy Jun Maig
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—President Macapagal-Arroyo and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo have convinced Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid to challenge Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay if the latter decides to run for a third and final term next year, the Inquirer learned.

Reason for this "political courtship"? To finally stop the protest rallies being conducted by the opposition and anti-Arroyo groups in the country's premiere business district.

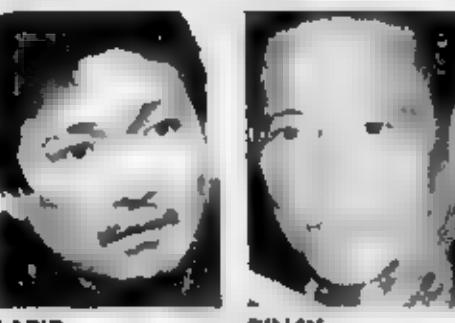
Binay, a member of the opposition who has openly criticized Ms Arroyo and who has joined calls for the President's resignation, has allowed anti-Arroyo forces to gather in Makati City to air their grievances.

A day before he flew to the United States on April 27, Lapid told reporters here that the Arroyo couple, during a round of golf in Baguio City on Holy Week, had asked him to challenge Binay.

"Makati is a center of business and protest rallies have no place in that city because these affect economic progress," Lapid said.

To prove his sincerity to run for mayor in Makati, Lapid said he bought a house in Magallanes district and applied for residency in the city on April 25.

"I'm sure to run for Makati mayor. The people of Makati are no strangers to Kapampangan leaders. The well-



LAPID BINAY

loved, longtime mayor, the late Nemesio Yabut, was from Macabebe town," said Lapid, who served as three-term governor of Pampanga from 1995 to 2004 before he became a senator in 2004.

Assurance

Lapid said he was assured by administration officials and several businessmen in Makati that they would support his mayoral campaign.

The senator said his son, Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid, was with him when the Arroyo couple asked him to run for Makati mayor.

Minerva Arceo, public information officer of Governor Lapid, said the older Lapid had been considering the plan to challenge Binay since Holy Week.

Arceo said the senator wanted to help Ms Arroyo, his kababaihan (province mate), in her political problems.

Lapid, who was elected to a six-year term in the Senate that would end in

2010, did not say if he would resign from his post to challenge Binay.

Section 67 of the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines, however, states that any elective official seeking another office would be considered resigned from his office upon the filing of his certificate of candidacy.

This section states: "Any elective official, whether national or local, running for any office other than the one which he is holding in a permanent capacity, except for President and Vice President, shall be considered ipso facto resigned from his office upon the filing of his certificate of candidacy."

Veteran enemy

But Lapid, a movie star, would face a veteran of local politics who has led Makati City for nearly 20 years.

Binay was first appointed OIC (officer in charge) mayor after the EDSA Revolution in 1986. He ran and won his first term in 1988 and served for three terms that ended in 1998.

Binay asked his wife, Elenita, to run for mayor when he reached the three-term limit in 1998. Elenita defeated Arturo Yabut, son of the late Mayor Yabut.

Binay sat out his wife's term and accepted an appointment as chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

In 2001, he was eligible to run again and defeated actor Edu Manzano in the mayoral race.



Actors performing roles as Spanish conquistadores lay on the beach near the Mactan Shrine in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu in a reenactment of the battle won by Lapu-Lapu against a contingent of Spanish colonizers led by Ferdinand Magellan.

Pangasinan coastal towns start celebrating feast to honor seaBy Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—The coastal towns of Pangasinan have launched various activities this week to celebrate the Pista'y Dayat (sea festival), probably the country's biggest and longest beach party.

Gov. Victor Agbayani opened the festivities on Thursday at the provincial capitol grounds with the awarding of Linis Dayat (sea cleanup) winners, a year-round contest for the cleanest coastlines in the province.

Agbayani said the Pista'y Dayat is not merely a fiesta celebration but a reminder to everyone to continue taking care of the coastal resources that are basic to the survival and character of the province."

Pangasinan has 14 coastal towns and cities, facing the Lingayen Gulf and the South China Sea.

The town of Bani was cited for topping the Linis Dayat contest in the past seven years. The town, in 2005, received the Galing Pook Award for coastal resource management (CRM).

Bani Mayor Gabriel Navarro said the Linis Dayat award has resulted in greater awareness among coastal town residents on conservation of marine resources.

Vigor

"We have more marine sanctuaries and mangrove forests. There is renewed vigor in solid waste management and there is less illegal fishing," he said.

The other winners were Anda (CRM pioneering cluster), Burgos (CRM expansion cluster), Labrador (CRM developing cluster), Alaminos City (best coastal local government unit in mangrove development initiative), Infanta (best coastal town in upland reforestation management), Barangay Eguia in Dasol (model coastal barangay in solid waste man-



PARTICIPANTS join a contest of speed in deboning bangus, the main product of Dagupan City. The contest is part of Bangus Rodeo, one of the many activities lined up by Pangasinan to celebrate the Pista'y Dayat feast.

RAY ZAMBRANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

agement) and Samahan ng Malibut and Manginisa ng Balingasay (model barangay fisherfolk association in coastal habitat management).

Agbayani also opened the Panag-Artela, an exhibit of local artists, as part of the festival activities.

Other festival features are a parade of Pangasinan festivals on May 1 and various competitions in sports, painting, singing and sand sculpting. The Limgas na Dayat 2006 beauty pageant will be held today.

In Dagupan City, the Pista'y Dayat has evolved into the Bangus Festival, an almost month-long celebration which highlights the city's major product—the bangus.

Mayor Benjamin Lim said the city will hold the longest street barbecue party on April 30, where fresh bangus will be grilled along the major streets of the city.

Best products

The First Dagupan's Best competition, which featured the best products produced in the city, was held at the Malimgas market as part of the festival.

The winners were Marcela Barrozo for preparing the best tape; Celia Guiao, best tin; Lourdes Embornal, best longganisa; Belinda Natividad, best processed fish; Rowena Bancod, best sweets, and Soledad dela Cruz, best fruits.

Vice Mayor Alvin Fernandez, Dagupan's Best chair, said the result of the competition and the enthusiasm shown by participants were indications that the city should now start looking at these processed food products as additional sources of income.

He said the winning entries will be adopted as official recipes for the different Dagupan food products and will be produced by women's groups of the city as part of their livelihood projects.

SORGOGON CITY—THE HEAD OF

the University of the Philippines-Manila (UP-Manila) Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology denied telling the independent commission investigating the effects of mining operation at Rapu-Rapu, Albay that the results of the department's study were conclusive, especially on the question of heavy metals in the body of the respondents.

In a phone interview, Nelvia Cortez-Maramba told the Inquirer that what she told the commission was that they had to collect new blood and urine samples from the residents of the target areas so they could be sent to Minamata, Japan for a more thorough and accurate examination.

Maramba said the only reliable results they had were that of the fish

samples but she did not reveal it before the commission but instead gave it to Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee for submission to Gov. Raul Lee.

The UP professor was criticized by Governor Lee after she was quoted in an Inquirer article as telling the commission that residents in four towns in Sorsogon had heavy metals in their bodies.

Maramba said no media reporter talked to her personally about what she told the commission, adding that she was surprised when she read the report in the Inquirer.

Her office was still awaiting the results of the water sample analysis from a laboratory in New Hampshire where it was sent, she said.

"I told the commission that further study has to be done to ascertain the result of urine and blood sample

analysis since the laboratory apparatus that were used in the first analysis proved to be no longer effective, thus the results were not reliable and conclusive," Maramba added.

Meanwhile, commission vice chair Charles Avila said Maramba's testimony before the investigating body could always be checked since they were all electronically recorded.

Avila said the commission was already wrapping up its job and now preparing the final report for presentation to President Macapagal-Arroyo on May 5.

Avila assured the public that nothing would be hidden from anyone and that their report would reflect all the facts and information they gathered during the more than one month fact-finding mission. **Bobby Q. Labalan**, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Outages in 4 cities traced to low water level

PAGADIAN CITY—FOR THE PAST five days now, the cities of Pagadian, Zamboanga, Ozamiz, and Dipolog have been suffering outages, which the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) blamed on low water level in hydroelectric plants.

Ruben Conti, Transco Northwest Mindanao Area manager, said the problem was also aggravated by the absence of power generation plants in Iligan City and Bukidnon.

Transco Northwestern Mindanao services the entire Zamboanga Peninsula, Lanao del Norte, and Misamis Occidental.

He said on April 25, "forced outages" affected Unit 3 of Agus 4, Unit 3 of Agus 6 and power barge 117 in Iligan, while the de-

creasing level of water that enters the Pulangi 4 Hydroelectric power plant in Bukidnon also contributed to the power shortage.

Aside from the four cities, several Zamboanga del Sur towns also suffered outages when the Zamboanga del Sur Electric Cooperative (Zamsureco I) decided to reduce the supply of electricity from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Henry Gumapon, Zamsureco I technical chief, said the cooperative predicted losses when they decided to cut consumption by about two megawatt hours (mWh) based on a Transco advice.

But Conti defended the decision, saying the Iligan Diesel Power Plant had reduced its pow-

er generation capacity. He said two other power plants have been undergoing "preventive maintenance schedule."

Agapito Quirante, Transco District 1 area manager in Pagadian City, told the Inquirer that as of Friday, the Pulangi plant remains not fully functional.

"We have received reports that power generation at Genco had resumed but we are still waiting if we could already lift the advisory and resume to normal power loading," he said.

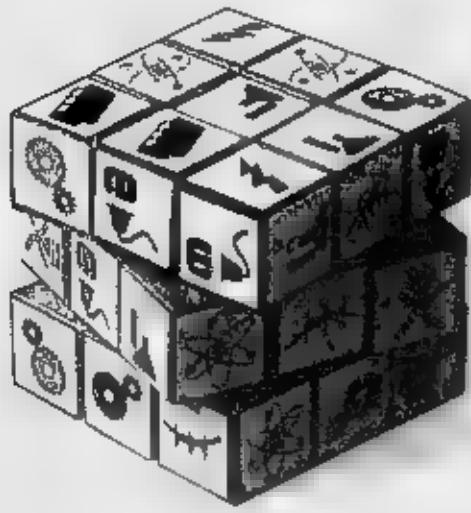
Gumapon said the outages were compromising the finances of Zamsureco I.

This month, Zamsureco I entered into a contract to buy P11.3 million worth of power from the National Power Corp. (Napocor). He said if the cooperative cannot pay the contract amount, it would be penalized.

Gumapon expressed apprehension that Zamsureco I may not be able to pay the contract

price because of the outages.

"If this happens, we will appeal to the Energy Regulatory Board for exemption since the losses are incurred not by the cooperative's failure to meet the amount but because of the reduction of power supply," Gumapon said. Michael Sarangaya, PDI Mindanao Bureau



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INQUIRER Mindanao

Family legacy of education continues

By Nash B. Maulana

THE ABPI FAMILY has become an institution in Datu Piang town in Maguindanao with their forebears' legacy of education.

In fact, the Muslim family received the Presidential Merit Award for Model Family during the celebration of the 1995 International Year of the Family.

Its triumphs started with the humble patriarch, Gani L. Abpi, who sowed the seeds of rural education in this part of the country, when he founded the Central Maguindanao Institute (CMI) in 1958.

Mister Abpi (as he was fondly called by the community in sheer reverence) acted as school principal, security guard and janitor. His wife, Serenidad Baustista Sanchez, of Pampanga and Bulacan, was teacher and Librarian.

Koran verse

The couple had taken inspiration from the following verse of the Koran when they decided to put up the school. They both envisioned it as a structure to help transform the community of Christians and Muslims in Daulawon, Cotabato (now Datu Piang):

"Read! In The Name of thy Lord Who Createth/Createth human by the clot (of congenital blood); /Read! And thy Lord is Most Bounteous/Who Taught by the Pen;/Taught human what he knew not."

With only five teachers for all 174 students, Abpi succeeded in raising the fledgling school with the help of a small fund put up by its first all-Muslim board of directors—Bakalat Piang-Nul,



THE ABPI children have all chosen to practice their profession mostly in Maguindanao. They are (from left) Myra Abpi Pendatur, an accountant; Meriam Abpi Ali, a dentist; Jane Abpi Tuan, an economist, educator; Ysmael Nasser Sanchez Abpi, an engineer; Jocelyn Abpi Ismael, a dietitian-nutritionist; Hyasmin Abpi Guinomla, a nurse; Elizabeth Abpi Samama, a physician. (Second row, fourth from left): Serenidad Sanchez Abpi Al-hajj and Gam Lumbu Abpi Al-hajj.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Muhamad Shuaib, Datukan Maramlangkay, Muhamad Abpi and Abpi himself.

Christian friends, who comprised the CMI's first set of faculty members—their first names apparently escaped the school's surviving records from the wars of the '70s—were Miss Jacuting, Miss Sennio and Engineer Guteza.

As of its 2005-06 commencement exercises, the rural school, now known as the Gani L. Abpi Colleges Inc., has produced about 25,000 graduates of high school and recipients of college degrees and associate degrees.

Many of the alumni have joined pools of professionals in offices in Datu Piang and abroad,

including an illustrious career ambassador.

Fresh family branches

Deep into their professional fields, Dr. Elizabeth Abpi-Samama, the couple's eldest child, said she and her six siblings have raised their own children, too, literally adding up fresh branches into a family tree of an institution that their parents planted and reared.

And in this season of commencement exercises, two from among the third generation of 22 grandchildren will finish medicine.

Samama narrated that their father started it all. While their father was taking

up education at the University of the East in Manila, he met their mother at a boarding house her parents owned in Sampaloc, Manila.

Two years into their marriage, the Abpis founded the school.

It pained them that the wars in the '70s curtailed the school's operations, but this did not douse their dedication and zeal.

Resettling in Manila, Abpi taught at the Lakandula High School while finishing a master's degree in education at the Manuel L. Quezon University in 1974.

Serenidad was employed with the then Presidential Task Force (PTF) along Espana Avenue. The PTF, commissioned by then President Ferdinand Marcos to formu-

late peace programs for his administration, had revived Maguindanao as a province in its recommendation on the division of the Empire Cotabato into Maguindanao, North Cotabato, South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

Housework, too

Abpi's wife used to say that with all the official functions that her husband had to attend to, he still found time doing household chores, including laundry work, whenever she gave birth or was cooking and serving her food while recuperating from delivery, according to their children.

The couple had seven children—Elizabeth, who later married businessman Victor Samama;

Ma; Hyasmin, wife of Muhammad Ismael; Meriam, wife of Nasir Ismael, also a scion of an educated clan in Sulu and a computer guru; Ysmael Nasser, who married Suraini Dumama, a pharmacist; Jane, who is married to Macmod Tuan, an educator; Meriam, wife of Chief Insp. Esmael Ali, and Myra, whose husband is Chief Insp. Nasser Pendatur.

Foundation

The children would later establish the foundation that worked for the reopening of the school, eventually renaming it the Gani L. Abpi Colleges Inc., in honor of their late father.

Ysmael, a civil engineer, succeeded his father as administrator of the school when it reopened in 1981 with the help of its more prominent alumnus, including Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Baharwan K. Guinomla, Muslim Ampatuan, former vice governor of Maguindanao, the late engineer Makmod Mending, then senior executive of the National Irrigation Administration; and Mustapha Sambohalwan, Cabinet secretary in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

With sheer dedication to rural services, the Abpi children have all chosen to practice their profession locally and mostly in Maguindanao, although they could have been more financially rewarded elsewhere.

Samama is a physician, Hyasmin, a nurse; Jocelyn, a dietitian-nutritionist; Jane, an economist-educator; Meriam, a dentist; and Myra, an accountant. They have been helping run the school as board directors.

Serving locally is more satisfying than the rewards of working overseas, they agreed.

Adventure in Maitum, Sarangani: Whitewater tubing

By Aquiles Zonia
Maitum, Sarangani

I WAS HESITANT TO PUT ON THE SAFETY gear—head protector and life jacket. I was too confident.

It would just be another ordinary experience, I thought. How wrong I was!

The rules, written in bold letters on a signboard displayed right at the center of the village, were very clear: "Whitewater tubing is off limits to those who do not know how to swim."

I cringed, but never mind! Nobody knows I don't know how to swim.

Digs Movilla, a council member of New La Union in Maitum town in Sarangani, said it was the busiest day ever since whitewater tubing started in the village three years ago.

Vincent Yabes, son of Maitum Mayor George Yabes, was the first to discover the Pangil River as perfect for this kind of outdoor activity.

It was a Black Saturday. I was with six other batchmates from high school at the Mindanao State University.

The adventure pushed through after an exchange of e-mail among members of Class 1984. The group learned about the whitewater tubing through an e-mail I sent to the e-group designed by Ariel Marco R. Oclarit, the salutatorian.

Oclarit, a graduate of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, took time off a busy work schedule to join the adventure.

Warm reception

After brief pleasantries, Movilla and two other barangay officials prepared a long food table for us. All the cottages were occupied.

The hospitality was touching and exhilarating. Since we didn't bring any kitchen utensils, except for a three-kilo deer meat and bottled water, it was Movilla's wife Bunica who cooked the lunch of grilled milkfish, tinolang native chicken and adobong usa.

Although I was still suffering from a lower back injury during one of my workout sessions at the fitness gym, I had to accompany my batchmates who were very

whelmed by mixed emotions. It was our first river tubing experience and we could feel the adrenaline rush.

We held our breath every time the rubber tube carrying us slid along and splashed on the rapids.

I could hear the Cornejo sisters—Precious, 19, and Kaye, 17—shrieking in excitement whenever the tubes dropped.

I've seen several tubers ahead of us fall into the waters, but the guides were quick. Within minutes, they were back on board.

This time, I could see them holding on tightly to the tubes.

The ordeal went on for 35 minutes. I realized, thus kind of daring downstream run is not for children and the lily-livered.

More than recreation

There's more to whitewater tubing than mere recreation. Movilla said it provided jobs for the locals and revenues for New La Union.

Each tuber pays P80 for the experience, of which 60 percent go

to the river guides, 20 percent to the management, 15 percent to the barangay and the remaining five percent to medical care.

According to the village officials, 20 to 30 visitors visit New La Union to try river tubing during ordinary days.

At present, there are more than 18 river guides in New La Union who depend on river tubing for livelihood.

They derive fun no longer from the chirping of birds hopping from one tree to another along

the riverbank but on the murmur of the rushing water, the screams, and the oohs and ahhs of jittery delighted tubers.

Indeed, whitewater tubing has turned this rustic yet idyllic mountain-side village from sleepy to a vibrant one.

After the river tubing, I climbed up the concrete stairway of the dam leading to the village center.

On my way to the top, Oclarit met me and said "I just missed the thrill of my life."

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Marian shrines: New landmarks on Antipolo route

Four latest 'reflection spots' for Way of Mary pilgrims to be blessed today

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

WITH HIS MEMORIES STILL ALIVE in the hearts of his followers and friends, not even death can stop the late Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's dream from becoming a reality.

Today, four newly built shrines in Mandaluyong and Pasig cities will be blessed. Two shrines had been blessed earlier. They are part of the cardinal's vision of building 20 shrines representing the 20 mysteries of the Holy Rosary (including the Luminous Mystery), on a 14-kilometer traffic-prone stretch from the Our Lady Queen of Peace (Edsa Shrine) in Ortigas Avenue to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage (Antipolo Cathedral) on Sunulog Highway.

Drawing inspiration from a group of pilgrims walking from Mandaluyong City to Antipolo City twice a year—Maundy Thursday and April 30, the eve of the Antipolo May Festival—Sin had thought of building the shrines, hoping to bring the Blessed Virgin Mary closer to the people, three years ago.

The annual tradition began when the centuries-old statue of the Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage had to be transferred to the Quiapo Church during the Japanese Occupation.

Brought to Antipolo City by Spanish galleon trader Don Juan Niño de Tabora in 1626, the image was returned to the Antipolo Cathedral after the war ended in 1945.

Retracing the route

Her return to a permanent home inspired devotees to start pilgrimages in 1978 to retrace the route taken by the image, Antipolo Cathedral rector Fr. Rigoberto de Guzman said.

Soon, more devotees were joining the pilgrimage, which they later called "Ang Banal na Paglalakbay."

Pilgrims would bring the image on foot to the Quiapo Church in a motorcade and return it to Antipolo in the evening.

The pilgrimage was a touching testament of faith. But Sin had observed most of the participants were just walking and were not praying, project proponent Louie Reyes recalled.

"He initially thought of the idea to make the pilgrims pray the Rosary," Reyes said. "But after two to three days, the Cardinal came out with another concept," Reyes added.

Way of Mary

The shrines called the "Way of Mary" once completed, could become "reflection stops" for devotees and pilgrims praying the Rosary.

The route is one of the busiest in the metropolis but according to Sin, "that is exactly where Mother Mary should be. She should be with the people."

Reyes and a group of businessmen, all devotees of the Blessed Virgin, decided to push through with the idea.

The first shrine, located at the Ortigas Building on corner Ortigas and Mercedo Avenues, was built last year.

Cardinal Sin himself had blessed the first shrine (The Shrine of the Annunciation), erected at the Edsa Shrine, last year. Three weeks before Sin passed on, Antipolo Bishop Gabriel Reyes also blessed the last shrine (The Shrine of the Coronation) at the Antipolo Cathedral.

In a span of one year, the group of devotees managed to erect four more shrines to complete the Joyful Mystery, getting funds from private donors like businessman Ricardo Pascua and the Ortigas family. The other

shrines are located at the Frontera Verde on Ortigas Avenue, the corner of Ortigas Avenue and Pasig Boulevard, and at the corner of De Castro Avenue on Ortigas Avenue extension.

The shrines, in bas-relief, were sculpted and painted on concrete and steel by artist Neri Miranda, who also did murals and paintings for the two churches connecting the shrines, the Edsa Shrine and Antipolo Cathedral.

Each shrine is six feet tall, four feet wide, six feet thick and mounted on six-foot high lighted pedestals designed by architect Joey Amistoso.

There are 14 more shrines to be completed, with each structure costing about P400,000, Reyes said. His goal is to complete the project by Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Fund-raising through text

He is not only counting on the help of wealthy businessmen, but also on the love many Filipinos have for the Blessed Virgin Mary, and yes, even on their habit of text messaging.

Those who want to help can send a text message to 2600, the Text Mama Mary Community, established by the group to encourage devotees to send petitions and prayers through text.

The revenues coming from the text messages, which cost P2.50 each, would be used to complete the remaining shrines which are not just works of art.

More than a realization of a great man's vision to strengthen the faith of the faithful, they are also a constant reminder of and a prayer for peace.

"We really need peace, especially in these times. We hope that through our prayers, we will be enlightened on the path to peace," De Guzman said.



ONE of the four Way of Mary shrines—the Visitation—that will be blessed today. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Inmates blame Reyes

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE MORO CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S Alliance (MCPA) yesterday blamed former Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes for the "slow death" of suspected Abu Sayyaf members detained in Camp Bagong Diwa.

The group said the roughly 120 Muslim detainees are suffering from poor conditions in the Bicutan jail despite their pleas to the interior department for humane treatment.

May Vargas, MCPA information officer, told the INQUIRER in an interview that their group has recorded five deaths inside the jail since 2003.

Anak Mindanao Rep. Muji Hataran earlier identified the suspected Abu Sayyaf members who died inside the jail as Heidy Andolong, Mark Teodoro, Jairo Arbot, Benhar Isma and Muktar Ahual.

"The families of these inmates as well as relatives of those killed during the Bicutan siege in March 2005, will write a complaint to the DILG and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology underscoring Reyes' culpability," Vargas said.

The BJMP is under the supervision of the interior department. Reyes was the department secretary during last year's siege on the Bicutan jail.

Teacher finds home ...

From page A23

Monte, who is turning 60 next week, said she didn't take it against the parents that they did not like her. She just resolved to help and understand them, she added, as she could see the difficulties they were facing adjusting to their new home after being displaced from their houses in Mindanao.

Most of the parents of her students live in shanties at the Maabarika Village, where water is scarce. They had to pay P5 to use the communal bathing center built for them, Monte said.

She added that she realized that some of her students were late for school because they had to wait for their other siblings to come home and take off the school uniform—which they, in turn, would wear.

Help from agencies

Bothered by their plight, the principal approached several foundations for some of the children's basic needs, like food and school uniforms. Two of those that responded were the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United States Agency for International Development.

Monte said she had often wondered why the national government was giving too much attention to fighting the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao instead of looking after the children affected by the war.

The government should give their attention to the kids who are already here, those who left their homes so they would not end up being an Abu Sayyaf member," she added.

Monte said that some children

would get into fights in school especially with a rival tribe. A few would even sneak in deadly weapons, she told the INQUIRER.

"I mustered the courage to meet and talk with the parents concerned, to show them that Muslims and Christians could live harmoniously in this school," the principal said.

Acceptance, finally

Eventually, the parents warmed up to her and the death threats stopped. Now, Monte said she can freely walk at night or jog in the morning in the village without fear of getting mugged or killed.

The school has also started earning accolades from across the nation. It was named the most innovative school in the country last year during the Department of Education's National Schools Maintenance Week in Davao City.

The Tagum City government also gave the school the Best Reading Nook award last year. Two months ago, the school garnered three prizes at the National Young Writers' Conference in Kalibo, Aklan: First place in Radio Broadcasting and Info Commercial and second place in Technical Application.

"These awards are worth more than money and promotion. I sacrificed my promotion to another school, because this is where I am happy," said the teary-eyed Monte.

Now that the school is doing well, she is ready to turn over her responsibilities to someone the community trusts, she added. "But now, they won't let me leave. It tugs at the heartstrings when they tell me they still need me here," Monte said.

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GELOBAL

Editor Gerry Lirio

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These are their stories.

An OFW was there

He's the first Pinoy to climb 6,161 meters of Everest Peak

By Arlyn dela Cruz

HE DIDN'T GET TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD BUT OVERSEAS worker Arniel Aquino climbed far enough to feel proud at being able to wave the Philippine flag atop a 6,161-meter (about 19,900 feet) ridge in the shadow of Mount Everest.

"Your ears are roaring, even at the height of only 4,000 meters, as though there is an airplane about to explode inside your head all the time," Aquino said of his October 2002 trek to Island Peak, one of a combo of mountains around the world's highest peak.

"The hardest thing was the thought that you will give in to your fear, the thought that you can really die there."

With backpacks weighing 35 kilos and seven companions, including a local sherpa guide, the 35-year-old Aquino said he hiked five days before reaching the highest point of his climb.

Island Peak is a tourist destination about 8,700 feet below the summit of Everest, the Himalayan giant which towers roughly 29,035 feet.

The 5-foot, 7-inch, 140-pound Aquino has always had a passion for mountain climbing, having trekked up such mountains as Mt. Apo, Pulag and Haimon, he says.

Later, he went abroad, working as a life guard at a resort in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. It was there where he nurtured his plans of going to Everest, even as part of an organized tour.

Aquino said that his Arab employer was also excited on learning of his plans

Inside his backpack

ARNIEL Aquino carried two backpacks and a knapsack when he climbed one of the mountains around Mount Everest.

- Two pairs of up and down jacket used by mountaineers; four pairs of hiking shoes, expensive Solomon shoes which cost the equivalent of more than P5,000 a pair;
- Gloves and head scarf, bonnet; medicines for common illness and a first aid kit, five pieces of light clothing, all white, three pieces of long sleeves;
- Cup noodles, dried meat and sausages called *beltsong* which originated in South Africa; sleeping bag, portable stove, tent;
- A camera, a baipen and notebook.

because he was also an adventurer.

Before leaving Dubai, Aquino had a thorough medical checkup and received vaccination against various diseases.

He spent P200,000 of his savings to buy the equipment he needed and pay for his plane fare as a tourist. When he flew to Nepal, he had a pocket money of \$2,000.

"Totally unimaginable" was how Aquino described the moment he

reached the top of Island Peak.

"You felt like crying out of joy, like you wanted to jump and jump, no matter how exhausted you were," he said.

Still, the height Aquino reached was well short of the altitude achieved by veteran mountaineer Romi Garduce, who soared higher than any Filipino in 2005 when he scaled Mt. Cho Oyu (26,906 feet), the world's sixth highest mountain, on the Nepal-Tibet border.

Aquino showed this reporter a laminated "adventure certificate" which he said was issued him by the Nepal Vision Treks & Expedition Ltd. and the Department of Tourism of Nepal. It bears the date Oct. 15, 2002 and the time 10:30 a.m.

"When I signed the logbook [at the end of his climb] I wrote down in really big letters that I'm from the Philippines," he said.

Aquino now works as a security warden at the Center for the Ultimate Rehabilitation of Drug Dependents at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig.

Aquino used his vacation leave to make the trip after finding climbing partners via the Internet.

Aquino said he made his final decision to go when a Czech, Peter Butchazeck, told him of his own plan to fly to Nepal in October 2002.

In Kathmandu, the pair linked up with mountaineers from other countries and they took a plane to Lukla at the foot of Everest.

He said the climb to Island Peak was extremely difficult not in terms of physi-



THAT TOWERING FEELING:
Aquino raises Philippine flag,
with four of his colleagues,
from a peak higher than any
Philippine mountain

cal obstacles but of its mental challenge.

Mental challenge

Altitude sickness was more than just the sound of planes roaring in his head.

"You thought you were coming down with fever but it turned out to be altitude sickness," he said. "That is why you have to have intense mental and emotional control. Otherwise, you will get insane thinking about the odd things you are feeling not just inside your body but inside your head," he said in an interview in Filipino. "You don't know if your mind is still working or is already dead."

Before the climb, their guide Lambabu told him of one big "no-no": Never sleep at day. You'll never be able to sleep at night and that would make the climb ex-

tra difficult.

Aquino was the lone Filipino in the group that included three Slovaks, three Czechs and the guide. They picked October to do it because it was a month when snow storms are less frequent.

During the climb, Aquino ate dried meat and noodles and drank a lot of coffee.

Asked if the thought occurred to him to go for the summit of Everest, Aquino said Island Peak was as far as his group's permit allowed.

"But if we had a choice and if it were not dangerous to climb alone, I would have escaped from the group and do it on my own. But that would have been suicide," he said.

Of the more than 2,200 people who

AN OFW/A26

Honoring housemates

By Nikko Dizon

IT'S "ARAW NG KASAMBAHAY" today and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has reiterated its commitment to support the causes of the country's thousands of domestic helpers working overseas.

"We proclaim with even greater conviction the DFA's commitment to work for the betterment of the economic and humane conditions of our domestic workers while they toil abroad," Esteban Conejos Jr., DFA undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs, said in a recent statement.

The nationwide event was started six years ago by various organizations including the Visayan Foundation Inc., Samahan at Ugnayan ng mga Manggagawang Pantahanan sa Pilipinas (Sumapi), International Labor Organization and partners from the government sector, NGOs, schools and religious groups, the DFA said.

"Araw ng Kasambahay" has served as a venue for intensifying public awareness about the situa-

tions and reforms needed in the domestic work sector," Conejos said.

This year, the event will stress the need for the immediate passage of the Batas Kasambahay and for concrete government policies that will realize the National Domestic Workers' Agency, Conejos said.

Workers' Summit

According to Conejos, the agenda was finalized at the First National Domestic Workers' Summit held in September last year, with the DFA as a major sponsor.

Today's observance of "Araw ng Kasambahay" will be held simultaneously in the cities of Baraga, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo and Davao, the DFA said.

In Manila, the celebrations will include a Service Fair participated in government agencies such as the DFA, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Social Security System (SSS).

Lawyers' and doctors' groups will likewise offer assistance to domestic helpers, the DFA added.



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GLOBALPinoy

Growing up without a father

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

AS A CHILD, I OFTEN WONDERED WHY my father missed most of my birthdays, why he could not make it to my recognition days to pin my medals, or why his seat was empty at Noche Buena on Christmas Eve.

But I did not really care much back then. I am now 21 years old. My 48-year-old father has been working overseas for the last 27 years, more than half of his life. He started as a marine crew in cargo ships in the late 70's right after graduating with a degree in nautical engineering from the Philippine Marine Academy.

When he came home after completing his first contract, he married his girlfriend, my mom, and soon they had a son, my older brother. Three years later, they had me.

Now a chief engineer, my father has spent more time on the high seas than with his family. He would spend 10 to 12 months abroad (at times even longer) before coming home for a vaca-

tion of two to three months.

He had been to dozens of places like England, China, Brazil, Japan, Egypt, Greece, Africa, United States, Taiwan, Australia, and Hong Kong, transporting goods—often rice, spices, and the likes.

Sometimes I got envious of my dad, thinking he was leisurely touring the world while the rest of us stayed home.

Who's he?

The airports became familiar, as we saw off my dad at the departure area or waited for his arrival.

Once, when I was about five, my father did not come home for more than two years. I almost forgot him. When I saw him again, I found myself asking, "Who is he again in my life?"

When my dad is away, the responsibility of taking care and raising my brother and I falls solely on my mom's shoulders. She had to deal with our petty quarrels and childish fights. It might not have

been easy to raise two boys by herself.

But it would be unfair to my dad to say I grew up without a father. He might not have been physically present all the time but we managed to keep in touch and keep abreast of everyone's life. He would phone us when he got the chance. With the advent of mobile phones, it has become much easier to stay in touch, particularly through text messaging.

Despite the distance, my father is a major influence in any decision I make. I wait patiently for his blessing—via phone or e-mail—before making any major decision like which school to go to or what computer to buy.

Losing respect

It has not always been this way. A couple of years ago, in my teens, I started to lose the respect I had for my father.

He was strict. And when he was home, my daily routine changed. My social life was curtailed because I had to stay home most of the time as my father requested, rather "com-

manded". He started telling me what I must become in the future, how I should talk, dress, walk, and eat. He would make me do carpentry and other strenuous chores which I did not normally do when he was not around.

I asked myself why I should respect this person. The man pops up for a couple of months, claims kingship in the house, then takes off again.

I felt he didn't know me and I didn't know him. I thought I managed to live without him for so long so why should he come to my life now?

I was not mad at him. But I just felt I didn't really need him and I wanted my life back to normal—meaning without him.

Maturity, understanding

Eventually, I grew up, matured. Understanding came.

With my rebellious years behind me, I started seeing my father in a new light.

I finally realized how much my father really loved us. The thousand phone calls I took for granted, I now know were signs of how much he missed us.

I feel guilty for the times I would pout because I had to wait beside the phone for his call. Or that I would have to suspend my internet connection so his call would get through. I felt guilty when it took me forever to compose a text message for him when I can do one in a couple of seconds for someone else.

I now know why he wants us to stay at home when he is on vacation—because he wants to be as close to us as much as possible knowing his vacation time is limited. I understand now that my friends can wait while I spend quality time with my father and the rest of our family.

As a father, I accept his right to give advice, suggestions, and guidance to me, his son. And I am fully aware now why he has to work abroad—for us. For me.

Gratitude

I realize that more than a breadwinner, he is my father. The person who endures the pain of being away from his beloved wife, two sons, and now a grandchild (my brother's daughter).

Now I know I have more than respect or gratitude for him. I love my father so much and someday, I hope to repay all the good things he has done for me.

My father is still working abroad and sacrificing for us. I might have grown without his physical presence, but I'm sure his love for us is always there. That's more than enough for me.

FAST FACTS

Sea-based Overseas Filipino Workers*
Filipinos account for 28% of total world supply of seafarers

Year	Population	Remittances (in billion JS\$)
2005	247,751	1.67
2004	229,002	1.46
2003	216,031	1.30
2002	209,593	1.20
2001	204,951	1.09

*Sea-based worker is defined by World Bank as one working in any kind of international fishing, passenger or cargo vessel, and usually has a one-year contract. The National Statistical Coordination Board says a sea-based worker or seaman is any person employed in a vessel engaged in maritime navigation.

SOURCES: ADB, BSP, POEA

COMPILED BY PDI RESEARCH

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OF THE YEAR!

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JAY-R
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Pinoys music genres as they hit the stage in

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PiNikPiKan and Rivermaya jamming,

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to earn exclusive invites to the
music event of the year!

BAMBOO
KITCHIE NADAL
RIVERMAYA

NOKIA
Connecting People

An OFW . . .

From page A25

tried to climb the Everest between 1921—when the first assaults were made—and 2004, more than 180 did not make it back.

A dream fulfilled

Waving his country's flag from a peak higher than any other Philippine mountain, including the 9,689-foot Apo, was more than what he had wished for.

"More than anything else, pride and glory aside, I want my 2-year old son to know that his father did something to fulfill his dreams using his own savings, blood, sweat and tears," Aquino said.

"It's a personal pride that I kept to myself but realized that my story is worth telling to my fellow Filipinos because I achieved my goal with no corporate or media backing. It was a dream I nurtured and a dream I fulfilled," he said, trying to hold back his tears.

He's praying for the success of the hazardous Everest expeditions now being mounted by two teams separately backed by rival networks GMA-7 and ABS-CBN. The dangers they are facing are very real, he said.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006



A TAMIL rebel guards their territory with a gun in Sampoor, eastern port of Trincomalee, Sri Lanka April 28.

REUTERS

Sri Lanka govt ready to resume peace talks

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA—EUROPEAN PEACE monitors said Saturday the Sri Lankan government had violated a ceasefire agreement when it launched deadly air strikes on Tamil Tiger rebel territory, as the administration said it was prepared to resume peace talks in Switzerland.

The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission also said it feared that government security forces have been involved in "extrajudicial killings of civilians," and criticized the rebels for installing political and military targets near the civilian population.

The government launched two days of air strikes on rebel positions after a suicide attack in Colombo last Tuesday which wounded the country's top army commander and killed at least 11 others. The air strikes killed 12 people and displaced thousands more.

"The air strikes that were conducted by the Sri Lankan government in Trincomalee district on Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam targets ... are a clear violation of the ceasefire agreement," the SLMM said.

The monitors also urged the government "to refrain from such operations as they can jeopardize the ceasefire further and will only add fuel to the conflict."

The government earlier said it would not launch more air strikes if the guerrillas also stopped their attacks. No violence or air strikes occurred overnight, said military spokesperson Brig. Prasad Samarasinghe.

The SLMM also criticized the rebels, saying it was "inexcusable" of them "to place military or political targets among the civilian population close to schools and private houses." The rebels have said the 12 killed in the air strikes were all civilians.

The monitors also raised fears Saturday that government security forces were conducting extrajudicial killings of civilians. They did not elaborate.

"This violence must stop immediately if the government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE are to make any progress in returning to the negotiation table," they said.

AP

Lee brands S'pore rivals as 'riffraff'

SINGAPORE—THE man who led Singapore to independence in 1965 said the government's opposition ahead of May 6 elections is a rabble with no chance of winning.

"I want a world-class opposition, not this riffraff," said Lee Kuan Yew, a former prime minister who now holds the Cabinet title of minister mentor. Lee, 82, spoke at a dinner Friday marking the 50th anniversary of Singapore's Foreign Correspondents Association.

The combative comment was vintage Lee as he sparred with foreign journalists over the pace of political change in tightly controlled Singapore. He said he did not want his country to sink into political upheaval similar to that of Thailand and the Philippines.

Lee displayed his taste for verbal jousting, cutting off one journalist who began to ask about the salaries of Cabinet ministers.

"This is a government that is above board financially," Lee said to an audience of several hundred journalists, diplomats and business executives in a hotel ballroom. "We will not allow anybody to say that we put our fingers into the till."

Then he warned: "You're not going to intimidate me, even."

Looking sprightly and alert, Lee often sharply questioned his inquisitors, and raised his forefinger to stab home an argument. AP

West vows diplomatic push to end Iran nuclear standoff

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States led western concern Friday over Iran's failure to stop sensitive nuclear work and vowed to press ahead with a strong resolution at the UN Security Council.

"Iran's desire to have a nuclear weapon is dangerous, in my judgment, and the diplomatic process is just starting," US President George W. Bush said after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported that Iran had failed to meet a UN deadline to stop uranium enrichment.

The US ambassador to the United Nations, John Bolton, said he would press for the quick adoption of a resolution that would legally bind Iran to freeze

its uranium enrichment.

The United States has called for a UN Security Council resolution against Iran under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which could impose economic sanctions and open the way for possible military action.

Russia and China have spoken against imposing UN sanctions on Iran and Bush highlighted the need for a "common voice" to put pressure on Tehran.

"The world wasn't always of like mind that the Iranians were headed for a weapon and that that would be a dangerous course of action," Bush said.

"And now we are of like mind. And so we are in the stage now of formulating a strategy to achieve

a diplomatic solution to this problem." US allies called for a strong response at the United Nations.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said it was "very serious that the Iranian regime has failed fully to cooperate with the IAEA and the United Nations Security Council."

"We will now be asking the Security Council to increase the pressure on Iran, so that the international community can be assured that its nuclear program is not a threat to peace and security," he added.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair's office called the IAEA report worrying and reaffirmed the need for common agreement on the next diplomatic measures.

France, which along with

Britain and Germany held unsuccessful talks with Iran, expressed deep concern over Iran's failure to comply with international demands but said negotiations were still possible.

"It's an alarming situation for the entire international community," said French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy. "We continue to say to Iran however that the door to negotiations has not been closed." After attending a Nato meeting, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said foreign ministers of the 26-nation transatlantic alliance agreed that the international community should form a strong united front.

AFP

Enrollment-to-Employment System: Giving students the competitive edge

Beyond the walls of colleges and universities is a highly competitive world. Students need to be prepared for this through education. But education should never be confined to learning the solutions to mind-boggling equations or knowing which best skill to apply.

More than acting as a training ground for students, an educational institution should serve as a microcosm of the real world. This is because as students finish their degrees, they are up for tougher competition among other job hunters.

Opportunities for work come to those who are prepared for it. Employers find it difficult to look for competent graduates in the same manner that graduates find job opportunities extremely scarce.

A school should continue to reinvent itself to better prepare its students to the demands of the real world. Like STI, it introduced a new approach to human resource development which emphasizes the need to develop students in various aspects to give them a competitive edge when they graduate.

STI has developed a unique system called the Enrollment-to-Employment System (E2E System) which is a complete approach to human resource development. This system provides real life education and employment support to students when they graduate.

According to STI, its E2E system is comprised of four parts namely Learning Systems Development, Academic Delivery System, Student Certification Program, and Job Placement Assistance Program. The four components put together attend to the student's needs from the time he enrolls at STI up to the time he applies for a job.

For instance, through the Learning Systems Development, students learn skills that companies are looking for. This is vital because companies are now more demanding of the quality of services and products they get.

Learning Systems Development goes hand in hand with STI's Academic Delivery System which makes sure that



graduates that will soon contribute to the development of the nation.

For a school like STI, this is a mission it has accomplished and will continue to pursue.

E2E System
ENROLLMENT-TO-EMPLOYMENT

A Dream Fulfilled

Some realizations come early in life. And in his early years in high school, James Marie Banares already knew he was going to take up Computer Science.

But as he was about to finish his high school, James was presented with so many choices. There were many college courses being offered and each one presented bright prospects.

It was an STI Information Technology Caravan in Meycauayan, Bulacan that finally convinced James to pursue his life-long dream. It was a tough but a good choice for James.

James was a consistent Dean's Listee at STI College-Meycauayan and later in STI College Fairview where he graduated Cum Laude. He now works in technical support for ePLDT Ventus, a subsidiary of telecom giant PLDT.



Real Life Formula for Success

Benjamin Carbonell is a born achiever. He was president of his school's Student Council and led a group that produced one of the best thesis for STI College-Fairview.

The highlight of his student life was when he graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Computer Science.

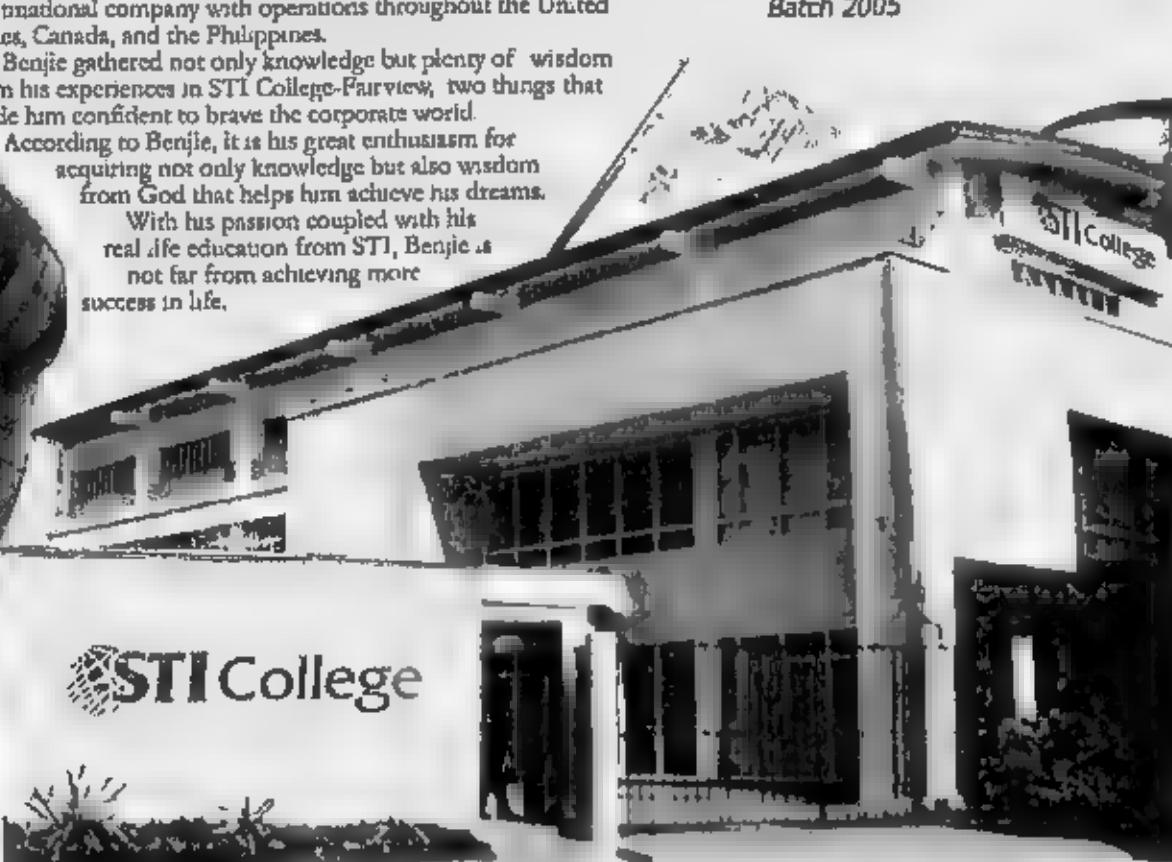
Now, he works as a data analyst for Accenture, a multinational company with operations throughout the United States, Canada, and the Philippines.

Benjie gathered not only knowledge but plenty of wisdom from his experiences in STI College-Fairview, two things that made him confident to brave the corporate world.

According to Benjie, it is his great enthusiasm for acquiring not only knowledge but also wisdom from God that helps him achieve his dreams.

With his passion coupled with his real life education from STI, Benjie is not far from achieving more success in life.

James Marie Banares
Cum Laude
BS Computer Science
STI
Batch 2005



The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Raid fails to capture SEA terror chief Noordin Top

JAKARTA, INDONESIA—ONE OF Southeast Asia's most-wanted terrorists escaped capture when security forces launched a raid on his hideout early Saturday, sparking a gunbattle that left two militants dead, police said.

Noordin Top, regarded as a key leader of the al-Qaida-linked group Jemaah Islamiyah, was not in the safe house when heavily armed police arrived before dawn, national police chief Gen. Sutanto told reporters.

"Noordin M. Top was not found yet and we are still searching for him," he said in the capital, Jakarta, after visiting the scene of the operation.

Authorities started staking out the location in Bunang, a village in Central Java, three months ago, "but when they launched their raid at around 3 a.m., he was gone," police spokesperson Brig. Gen. Anton Bahru Alam told el-Shinta radio.

Residents told el-Shinta they heard a fierce hour-long gun and grenade battle and that helicopters were flying overhead. Roads leading to the house were blocked off and ambulances kept on standby.

Black-clad anti-terror forces, hunkered behind shields, fired machine guns and grenades be-



NOORDIN MOCH TOP

LATEST picture, right, of Malaysian terror suspect Noordin Mohamad Top who police say has changed his appearance to look like photo on left.

fore moving in on a one-story building where the men were hiding. A single, barefooted suspect was led from the scene, his hands cuffed behind his back.

Sutanto said those killed were Abdul Hadi, also known as Bamang, and Jabir, alleged key players in several attacks in Indonesia in recent years which left dozens dead.

The slain terrorists were the main perpetrators in several terrorist acts. They have bomb-making capabilities, he said. "In the

safe house we found handmade bombs and documents."

Gen. Sutanto said Jabir assembled the bombs used in deadly attacks in Jakarta at the Australian Embassy in 2004 and the JW Marriott hotel in 2003. Abdul Hadi was a recruiter of suicide bombing candidates, he said.

Police arrested two suspects, identified only as Solahudin and Mustafirin, who took part in a failed attempt to attack a Jakarta shopping mall in 2001.

"Mustafirin told police that Noordin was not in the house, that he separated from him in the town of Temanggung in December," Sutanto said.

Abdul Hadi and Jabir, both alleged explosives experts, also are accused of participating in a failed assassination attempt against former President Megawati Sukarnoputri in 2003.

Jabir, who was wanted for the Australian Embassy bombing and was hardcore, had been close to Noordin Top for years and apparently had been traveling with him, said Ken Conboy, a Jakarta-based security consultant.

Conboy said Noordin and others will find it increasingly difficult to keep away from authorities, despite a substantial network of supporters who help shelter them, as the number of fugitives at large diminishes.

"They are running out of places to go. The only places they are going is the heart of radicalism, in Central Java and sometimes East Java," he said by phone from Jakarta.

Noordin Top allegedly was a close associate of the late Azahar bin Husin, an alleged leading member of Jemaah Islamiyah who was killed in an arrest attempt in November.



THE EMPIRE State Building seen from the newly renovated "Top of the Rock" observation deck at Rockefeller Center in New York in this October 26, 2005 photo. REUTERS

Iconic Empire State Building turns 75

By Giles Hewitt

NEW YORK—KING KONG famously climbed it, aliens blew it up in "Independence Day" and more than a few New Yorkers have opted to end their lives by plunging from its dizzying heights.

The iconic status of the Empire State Building, which turns 75 on Monday, has stretched far beyond the confines of New York City to make it one of the world's most recognizable structures—in the same rank as the Eiffel Tower or the Taj Mahal.

Though less striking than its Art Deco rival, the Chrysler Building, and lacking the charm of the Rockefeller Center, the Empire State has captured the public imagination more than both and draws four million visitors a year to its observation deck.

Its enduring preeminence can partly be attributed to the fact that, following its completion in 1931, the 1,250-foot high skyscraper reigned unchallenged as the world's tallest building for four decades.

Two years later King Kong had his first date with the Empire State, sparking a lasting Hollywood love affair that included a starring role for the building alongside Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr in the 1957 tear-jerker "An Affair to Remember." Other associations have been anything but romantic.

A few weeks before the skyscraper opened, a carpenter on the construction crew jumped to his death from the 78th floor—the first in a long line of suicides attracted by the highest drop in the city.

The number of "jumpers" proliferated in the economically tough 1930s and '40s and, in December 1947, a supposedly suicide-proof fence was installed to deter the desperate.

Over the 75 years, around 35 people have managed to end their lives at the Empire State—most recently last February when a young man gained access to an empty office on the 66th floor and leaped from the window.

Security guards have long patrolled the observation deck on the 86th floor and just last Thursday managed to foil an attempt

by a stunt man to parachute off the building after he had scaled the 10-foot fence.

Work on the skyscraper began in 1929, just a few days after the great stock market crash of the same year.

Amid the onset of the depression era, the soaring project quickly became a symbol of optimistic defiance with construction gangs competing against each other and raising the structure at the astonishing rate of five floors a week.

It was completed in just 13 months.

"It would be hard to imagine another building ever having so much symbolic power in the American landscape," said Mark Kingwell, author of the forthcoming book "Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams."

"Nothing on earth had been completed as quickly and to such a substantial degree as the Empire State Building," Kingwell told the Manhattan daily, AM New York.

But for all its iconic significance, it initially struggled to fulfill its primary function as an office building with much of its space going unrented until the 1940s.

The lack of inhabitants earned it the nickname, the "Empty State Building"—a moniker that has regained currency in recent years which have seen the vacancy rate rise again to nearly 20 percent.

Another plan that went awry concerned the building's distinctive Art Deco spire which was originally designed to be a mooring mast and depot for zeppelins.

However, after a couple of test attempts with airships, the idea proved to be impractical and dangerous due to the powerful updrafts caused by the size of the building itself.

Another brush with aircraft came in 1945 when a B-25 Mitchell bomber accidentally crashed into the north side between the 79th and 80th floors, killing 14 people.

During the accident, elevator operator Betty Lou Oliver survived a plunge of 75 stories and still holds the Guinness World Record for the longest recorded elevator fall.



These workshops are for those interested in pursuing a career in Multimedia Arts. Multimedia arts is the "fine arts" of the future and professionals in this field are top earners in the industry.

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Workshop Schedule

MAY 8-12 (4-6pm) **3D Character Modelling**
Learn the basics of sculpting in 3D

MAY 15-19 (4-6pm) **Introduction to Texturing, Surfacing & Lighting**
Learn how to simulate real world materials
Learn how to texture your 3D model

MAY 22-27 (4-6pm) **Basic 3D Animation**
Learn how to give life to your 3D character

MAY 29-31 (6-8pm) **Workshop for Advanced Maya Users**
Organic Modelling
Speed up your workflow with correct topology
Advanced Rigging Techniques for Characters

Participants must register one (1) week BEFORE scheduled workshop

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Yap fuels South win over North

By June Navarro

CAGAYAN DE ORO—BEING A FIRST-TIMER IN the All-Stars, Roger Yap had very little reason to find himself in the limelight.

But the Purefoods playmaker ended up right there, making the key place in the South All-Stars' 122-120 win over the North squad in the 2006 Hope PBA All-Star Week last night at the Xavier University here.

Yap split his charities after a foul from Enrico Villanueva and grabbed the rebound off his own miss with four seconds left, paving the way for the South to bounce back from last year's defeat and level their series with the North at 3-3 since the All-Star game was institutionalized in 1989.

Yap's heroics sealed Asst Taulava's second All-Star MVP award. The hulking center shared the accolade in 2004 with Talk 'N Text teammate Jimmy Alapag.

Taulava had 30 points and his 16 rebounds surpassed the record of 15 boards set by Jerry Codinera in 1992.

"We were lucky the breaks went our way," said South coach Jong Uichico, who won his second All-Star game. He led the Rookies-sophomores-juniors to victory in 2001.

Danny Ildefonso had 26 points on top of 15 rebounds, three assists and three blocks to lead the North.

North starter Man Caguioa of Barangay Ginebra never showed up and could be fined P20,000. Danny Espiritu, Caguioa's agent, said his

ward got hurt in a previous game. Earlier, Jojo Lastimosa fired 14 decisive points to secure the crown for the legends in the Legends Shootout for the third straight time.

The All-Star Weekend was sponsored by Welcoat Paints, Xtreme Magic Sing, Chowking, Accel, Air21 and Sunbolt.

Meanwhile, the exhibition game between a Northern Mindanao executive team led by Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno and a PBA selection headed by league commissioner Noli Eala ended in a draw, 86-all.

ABC-5 sportscasters and former PBA players Jason Webb and Richard Del Rosario led the PBA selection along with sportswriters Nelson Beltran, June Navarro, Nou Cortez and Zean Macamay.

Navarro's three-point play with 29 seconds left pegged the final count. The PBA selection could have won it in regulation but Eala's missed a potential game-winner at the buzzer.

The scores:

SOUTH 122—Taulava 30, Reavis 17, Hontiveros 16, R. Yap 15, J. Yap 15, Siegle 10, Alayag 9, Hugnatan 4, Bagul 4, Peña 2, Merk 0.

NORTH 120—Ildefonso 26, Villanueva 20, Rialdo 18, Racela 16, Miller 10, Raymundo 9, Belzoso 8, Arigo 8, Heterbrand 5,

Quarters: 33-31, 65-63, 95-94, 122-120

WHAT'S INSIDE



■ Reyes heads Team RP in Asian 9-Ball /A31

■ Jewels regain luster, trip Teletech in PBL Unity Cup /A30

■ NBA Legends preparing harder for RP Team /A32



■ Lakers put Suns in a black hole /A33



NIÑO Canaleta elevates en route to ruling the slam dunk competition Thursday.

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Ato

Eaglets, Greenies dispute finals berth today

ATENEO AND LA SALLE-GREENHILLS clash today for a seat in the high school division finals of the Toto-Filo Flying V Homegrown Cup at the San Juan gym.

The San Beda Red Cubs await the winner of the Blue Eagles—Greenies match, which is set at 3 p.m.

The championship is scheduled on May 6 and will serve as the prelude to the game pitting the San Beda All-Stars and their La Salle counterparts for the alumni title.

Lorenzo Karipunan scored 19 points as Ateneo plastered UP Integrated School, 102-60, slamming the door on the hopes of the Far Eastern Baby Tamaraws.

In the final all-star game UP edged Ateneo 70-67, while FEU bested San Beda,

ATENEO 102—Karipunan 19, Gamboa M. 17, Austria 12, Balmaceda 10, Rivero 10, Golla 8, Aportada 7, Gonzalez 6, Gamboa K. 4, Valera 3, Esquivel 2.

UP 70—Ferrer 19, Aranda 15, Marata 11, Yu 11, Salva 8, Garcia 2.
ATENEO 67—Stein 26, Arellano 10, Hanares 9, Tosoco J. 8, Gamboa 4, Alabat 4, Navasa 0.
Gamboa 12-19, 34-26, 56-48, 70-67

Jewels regain luster, trip Teletech in PBL Unity Cup

By Jasmine W. Payo

A GUTSY AL VERGARA BURIED A three-pointer with barely a second left to lift the Montaña Jewels to a thrilling 64-63 escape over the TeleTech Titans in the PBL Unity Cup yesterday at the Olivarez Sports Center.

Vergara's unlikely game-winner from the left corner with seven-tenths of a second remaining capped a mighty comeback by the Jewels from seven points down inside the final two minutes.

The win, their seventh in nine games, boosted the Jewels back into the lead with idle Rain or Shine.

"In the stretch that we needed points, I put Vergara in," said coach Nei Parado of the 5-foot-7 point guard, who scored a game-high 17 points on a 3-of-3 shooting clip from beyond the arc.

"The (last) play was not for him but he took the shot and nailed it. We really needed the win and the players showed it."

It was the sixth straight loss in a 1-8 card for the Titans, who blew a huge lead for the second straight game.

Alex Compton contributed 14 points for Montaña, including a key triple with 48.3 ticks left that got the Jewels back in the fight.

In the second game, Granny Goose started out strong and coasted to a 65-45 victory against an out-of-sync Mag-

nolia Ice Cream side.

Leaving on a balanced attack, the Tortillas scored their first back-to-back wins for a fourth-best 5-4 record.

"It was a big win against Magnolia. We had a good game thanks to our defense," said Tortillas coach Robert Sison.

With Magnolia unable to buy a basket, Granny Goose zoomed to a 32-9 advantage late in the second quarter.

The Spinners, who scored a measly 16 points in the first half, slipped to 4-5.

Larry Rodriguez opened the fourth period with seven straight points to push the Jewels ahead, 54-52.

The scores:

First Game

MONTANA 64—Vergara 17, Compton 14, Bono 13, Rodriguez 9, Paguio 4, Guerrero 3, Espiritu 2, Dela Cuesta 2, Alabianco 0, Nagpayo 0, Junilla 0.

TELETECH 63—Mercado 12, Serna 7, Doroso 7, Megdalana 6, Tang 6, Geling 5, Latorre 5, Capo 4, Dundi 4, Tolentino 3, Villarin 2, Estrada 2, Mendoza 0, Tabitag 0.

Quarters: 10-18, 26-41, 47-52, 54-63

Second Game

GRANNY GOOSE 65—Seldia 8, Concha 8, Itories 8, Abad 7, Santos 7, Latorre 6, Cruz 6, Dela Peña 5, Grimaldo 4, Quiñones 2, Ferrer 2, David 2, Gavino 0, Chua 0.

MAGNOLIA 45—Williams 15, Santos 12, Isip 4, Dela Cruz 3, Co 3, Rizada 3, Jones 3, Barcelon 1, Medias 1, Navidad 0, Bumbor 0, Te 0, Valenzuela 0.

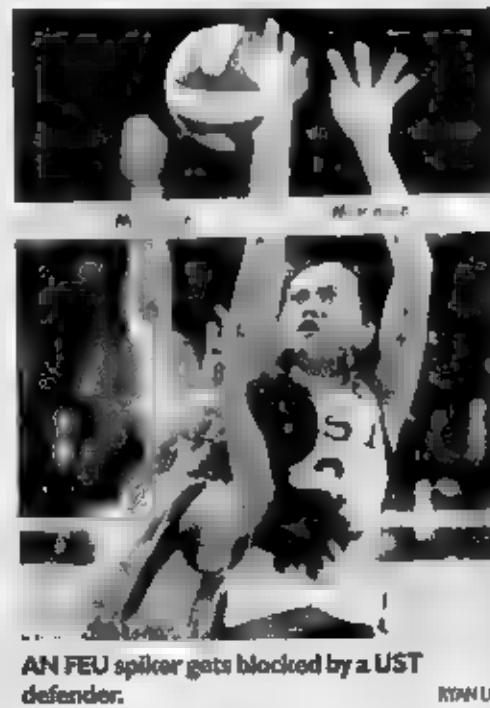
Quarters: 19-8, 34-13, 53-33, 65-45

GAMES TODAY
(Olivarez Sports Center)
2 p.m.—Rain or Shine vs Harbour Centre
4 p.m.—Hapex-PCL vs Toyota Otis



Germany joins RP Open Badminton

GERMANY, Thailand and Finland signed up for the first Bingo Bonanza Philippine Open Badminton Championships, bringing to 16 the number of teams that have confirmed their participation in the inaugural staging of the event beginning May 24 at the Philsports Arena. Xu Huaifan, the world's No. 4 ladies singles player, is expected to lead Germany's bid in the \$120,000 tournament that has attracted Malaysia, Singapore, India, Canada, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, England, Vietnam, Austria and host Philippines. For details, contact Joel Maborang at +63 926-5973222 or e-mail joebm_13@yahoo.com and aglipay@globequest.com.ph.



AN FEU spiker gets blocked by a UST defender.

KYAN LIN

FEU spikers demolish UE

GAMES TOMORROW (Blue Eagle Gym)

4 p.m.—PCU vs UE

6 p.m.—Adamson vs SSC-R

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FAR EASTERN GOT 26 BIG POINTS FROM Mary Ann Manalo and the Lady Tamaraws went on to whip newcomer University of the East, 25-22, 22-25, 25-11, 25-18, last night for their first victory in the Shakey's V League at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Manalo, the 22-year-old team captain, attacked with reckless abandon and got 23 of her total from kills as Far Eastern bounced back from an opening game loss to Lyceum, 26-24, 25-23, 16-25, 25-19.

Rachel Ann Daquio provided ample support, accounting for another 14 points, while Wendy Ann Semana delivered 10 points, nine of them on spikes, as FEU posted the win in one hour and 39

Also contributing for the Lady Tams were Ma. Josephine Caflanca, who had 10 points, and Anna Camille Abanto, who chipped in with nine.

The Lady Warriors caught the Lady Tams napping somewhat in the second set to level the match at a set-all before eventually losing for the second straight time.

Suzanne Roos led the Lady Warriors with 14 points, Catherine Sotejo also scored 10 markers, while Ginafor Alanguilan and Angelica Perez each scored five points for UE. With reports from Lawrence Kionisala

We have a winner

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

dose which Pacquiao is prone to doing with Roach not close by. Thus, should Congress make Roach a Filipino, why, that'd be justified any time it's done.

With Roach around, we have a winner in Pacquiao 99.99 percent of the

So to the moneyed, proceed and reserve your tickets now for that choice ringside seat at the Araneta Coliseum come July 2.

For me?

Well, I'll join the queue for that precious free ticket at general admission offered by ABS-CBN. Just say when, what time and where, and I'll come running.

Now, if Peter Musngi (hey, buddy, you did well anchoring the presscon on Friday) proves to be saintly once more and tells me to pick up my two tickets at a Bantry Bay Foundation outlet, I'll gladly do it. If in the mood, I might even give one ticket to a tot of 13 or above from the BB Foundation who may yet consider Pacquiao his role model.

As a bonus, I'll offer to chaperone the kid to the fight.

No big deal.

PASTBREAK. The Fil-Estate Sports Foundation will hold the Manila Southwoods Tennis Academy, a pet project of char. Bob Sobrepesa, on May 2-28 at Southwoods in Carmona. Acoel, Metro Rail Transit, Wilson, Gaspeid Motor Shop and The Manila Times are supporting the tennis camp now on its eighth year: Call Len Gregorio at (046) 430-0260 or Mammy/Linda Tesson at (02) 938-9522, (02) 939-4851 for more details... Please pray for the soul of Paul Beltran, the kind-hearted husband of my niece, Charly Boloso, Charly is the daughter of my ate Lourdes from Calauag, Quezon, and Roxas City. Paul died on April 27 and his remains lie at St. Peter along Quezon Blvd., Q.C. Interment has yet to be announced.

Comments to merju@pldtsl.net

Leonard, Marvelous Marvin Hagler and, to a certain extent, Oscar De La Hoya.

But more than that, it is Roach's hypnotic power that has transformed Pacquiao into a mean, killing machine atop the ring. There is no single person other than Roach that has influenced Pacquiao's mindset on fight strategies the last five years or so.

So, when talk flew wild and thick that Pacquiao won't train in the US for the Larios fight, Roach, true to his calling, quickly made his move. He boarded the next available flight to Manila and, just hours upon landing, made Pacquiao change his mind.

So take heed. Pacquiao deciding to train in the US has virtually sealed doom for Larios. It is, to use a much-abused cliché, a kiss of death for the

Every person has a weakness. Pacquiao is a lover of life. He loves life's perks such as the good time, which is not normal for one with a brutally sad, angry and hungry childhood.

A poor stowaway kid at 14 now suddenly a millionaire at under 30, why you can't blame Pacquiao if, at times if not oftentimes, he indulges and goes bang-bang here and goes bang-bang there—if you know what I mean.

More to the point, Pacquiao loves billiards, cockfighting and late night binges on pleasures both good and bad. And yes, also wine and roses—again, if you know what I mean. All that is an athlete's passport to self-destruction, a boxer's surefire poison if taken in over-

Combine power and style and you have a perfect fighter in Pacquiao, almost in the mold already of such greats like Muhammad Ali, Sugar Ray

Leonard, Marvin Hagler and, to a certain extent, Oscar De La Hoya.

The fight is for 12 rounds," said Roach. "We train for every single round. Every round could be a knockout round."

If, until now, you still can't believe Roach, you better start believing.

Roach it was who hugely helped polish Pacquiao's raw power. From merely a pure brawler, Pacquiao has metamorphosed into a stylist; you saw that in full bloom in the last Morales fight, right?

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SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006

Triple Crown hopes clash; 7 big races up

By Musong R. Castillo

CARMONA, CAVITE—FOUR bright hopes in the coming Triple Crown series see action today in one of eight special races that will end the 32nd Marho Founders' Cup Racing Festival at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

Speedball Million Dollar, to be steered by Jonathan Hernandez, and stayer King's Dominion are fancied in the Inocencio Crisostomo Cup, a 1,500-meter race among prospective Triple Crown bets serving as one of the day's highlights.

Dixie The Younger (CV Garganta), the promising three-year-old bay colt, and Batong Silyar (AB Alcasid Jr.), an entry from the respected Red N Stable, are the other two entries in the race that stakes P200,000 to the winner.

The first leg of the prestigious series, set on May 14, is considered a wide-open affair after Juggernaut, the top Triple Crown hopeful this year, was operated on a month back to take out bone

Race 1—(Tri)-Col Town (2) Money

For Rap (1) War Bird (3)

Race 2—(Panta/Ort/Tri)-Wooney Tune

(4) Iron Chef (5) Rich and Famous (8) Treasure Island (7)

King's Crown (1)

Race 3—(Ort/Tri)-Gone With the Wind

(3) Indian Boy (6) Prime Enforcer

(1) Triple Threat (2)

Race 4—(Ort/Tri)-Sovereign's Dancer

(6) Color O The Wind (1) He's

SO Lucky (7) Fashion Victim/Ele-

chips in his front knees.

Another big race—the Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. Cup—will be a toss-up among 11 entries.

Australian-import Mamaya is the logical favorite in the P500,000 race over the mile.

The four year-old bay filly will be coming into the race fresh from clocking an impressive 1 minute 34.6 seconds over 1,500 meters two weeks ago over the same track.

Leave No Doubt, which will be piloted by Patty Dilema, is another imported entry and is tipped to give Mamaya a good fight like Native Land, another Hernandez-steered mount.

The two-day festival is a tribute to all the people who created the Metropolitan Race Horse Owners Association, which was principally founded by former Ambassador Cojuangco in 1974.

There are actually a total of 15 big races, all named after the founding directors of the association. Seven of them were run yesterday.

gant Fashion (5)

Race 5—(Ort/Tri)-Karma (3) Mr. Vic-

tory (5) Hard To Find (7) Sutter's

Quest (1)

Race 6—Million

Dollar (4) Ba-

tong Silyar

(2)

Race 7—(Pen-

ta/Ort/Tri)- Native Land (9) Ma-

maya (3) Leave No Doubt (7)

Fairy Queen (1) Floral Arch/Spe-



REYES

tacular Play (10)

Race 8—(Quartet/Tri)- War Hero (5)

Britney's Magic (4) Cool Operator (6) Power

Of The Wind (1)

Race 9—(Ort/Tri)-

Special Edition (2) Golden

Connection (4) Tigres IN Action

(5) Sutter's Royal (1)

Race 10—(Panta/Ort/VTri)-Armidale

(5) Iron Heart (8) Ruah (1) Alex

is Magic (6) Crown Glory (7)

Race 11— Dynamic Jason (6) Virgin

Island (4) Refreshing (8) Take

Ten (12) King Aljihun (9) Simply

Strong (7)

Race 12—(Sutter's Wealth (1) Light-

ing Strike (4) Sweet Talk (2)

Race 13—(Super G/Ort/Tri)-Valentine

Girl (4) El Cid (6) Play It Again

(5) Aim For Gold (2) Habagat

(11) Jayvie's Godfather (8)

Reyes heads Team RP in Asian 9-Ball

CANADA-BASED ALEX "THE LION" PAGULAYAN joins Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante as spearheads of the country's bid in the 2006 San Miguel Beer Asian 9-Ball tour which kicks off May 5-7 at the Nguyen Du Sports Hall in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Marlon "Marvelous" Manalo, a semifinalist in last year's world pool championship, completes the explosive four-man RP squad in the annual competition which has attracted top Asian cue masters including reigning world champion and 16-year-old Wu Chia-ching of Chinese-Taipei.

Billiards patron Aristeo "Purch" Puyat said he is optimistic the Filipinos will perform well.

"Our players have good chances. But I expect the Taiwanese to give them a tough fight," said Puyat, organizer of the just-concluded Enerva Asian Ladies 9-Ball tour which back-to-back World Women's Champion Kim Ga-young of South Korea dominated.

Pagulayan (2004) and Reyes

(1999) are former world champions with Bustamante placing second in the 2002 edition behind Earl Strickland of the United States. Manalo, who lost to eventual champion Wu in the semi-finals, is competing in the Asian Tour for the first time.

Mandaluyong bet Manalo, on the other hand, the 2005 Filipino lone semifinalist survivor in the World Championship aims to give a good fight for the Filipino cue in the four cities stop of Asian 9-ball tour includes Bangkok, Kaohsiung and Jakarta, etc.

With a total pot of \$40,000, the event, organized by ESPN Star Sports, will go to Bangkok for the second leg on June 2-4. Kaohsiung for the third leg on Aug. 4-6 and Jakarta the fourth stop on Sept. 15-17. Marlon Bernardino

Platon-Garcia heads Tuason Cup winners

MAR PLATON AND HIS PARTNER MANUEL Garcia combined for a two-day aggregate of 138 to capture the overall title in the Don Celso Tuason Centennial Cup, the member-guest tournament of the Valley Golf and Country Club held recently.

Platon and Garcia accumulated 81 points at the championship south course and conspired for 57 at the executive course for a two-day total of 138 total which proved to be the highest among the record cast of 421 teams.

The other champions were Raoul Jorge and Benjamin Jacinto in Division I, Adeou Caragan and Jhilo Cada in Division II, Antonio Sy-Richard Ricarte in Division III, Luis Pastor Jr-Carlo Pastor in Division IV and Raymond Santos-Ansang Lee in Division V. Arnold Duay and Zaldy Villa topped the sponsors' side.

Emerging as the big winners were member Gomer Pangan and Dennis Nicomedes who fired aces at the executive course. Gomer Pangan aced the 12th and won a Club Cart from Turf Co. worth more than P200,000 while Dennis Nicomedes scored a hole-in-one on the eighth and won an Armscor revolver plus P50,000 in cash from CICL Insurance.

Gracing the awarding ceremonies of the event commemorating the 100th birthday of Don Celso Tuason were Valley president Louie Reyes, Bolo Tuason and organizing committee head Joey Saludong.

Mercedes Trophy tilt coming to RP

AFTER BEING STAGED IN EIGHT ASIAN countries the past 15 years, the MercedesTrophy golf tournament finally comes to the Philippines next month.

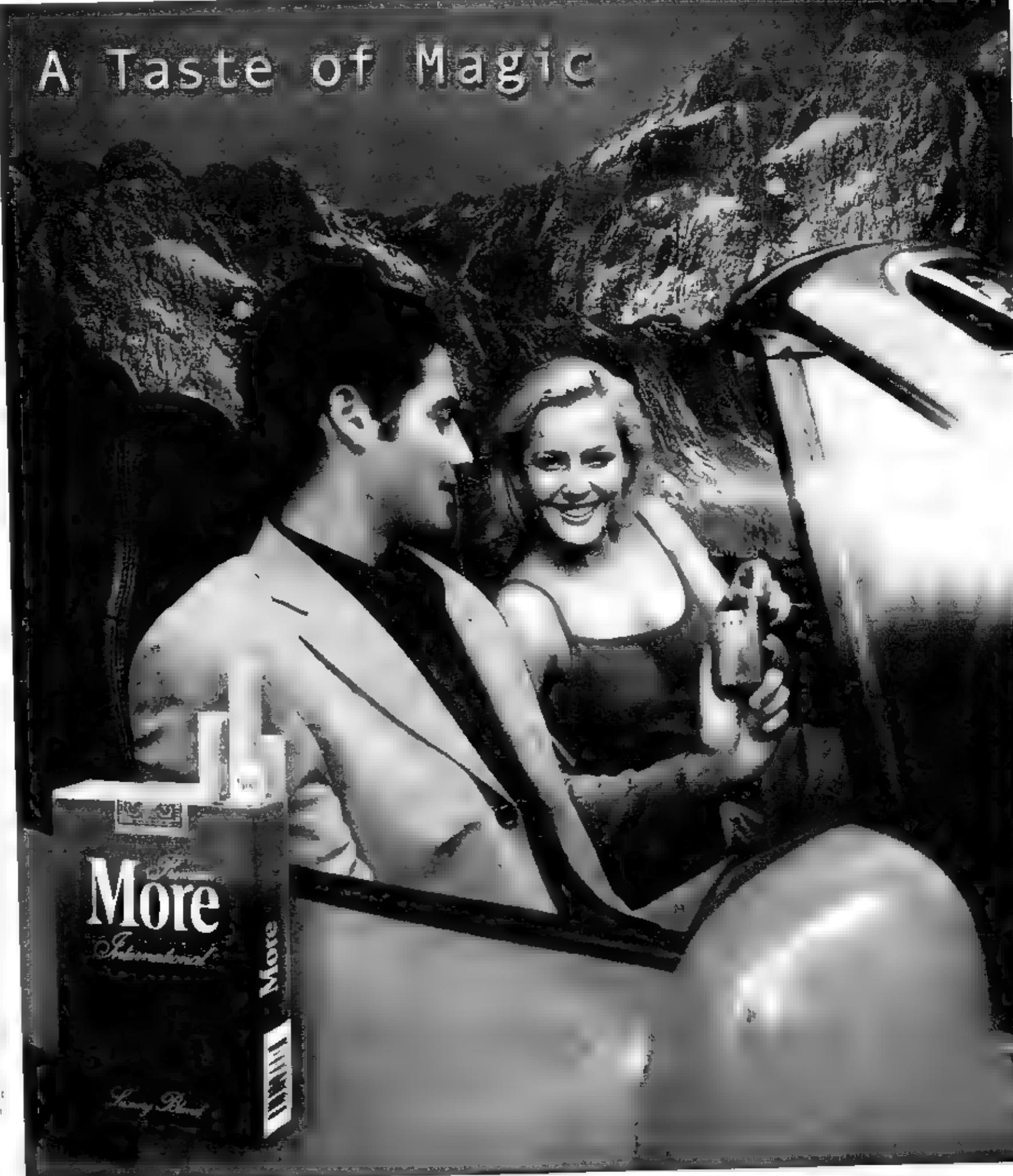
Mercedes-Benz's Philippine exclusive distributor Cars Motors Inc., with presenters Smart Infinity and Cathay Pacific Airways, will launch the 1st MercedesTrophy Philippines 2006—the national elimination round of the amateur golf tournament held worldwide since 1990.

Sta. Elena Golf Club's par-72, 6,491 yard Sierra Madre course will host more than a hundred Mercedes-Benz owners in the 18-hole event set May 15.

"It is with great pleasure and pride that we showcase, for the first time, this prestigious amateur MercedesTrophy Invitational," Cars Motor Inc. chair Gregorio T. Yu and president Felix R. Ang said yesterday. "We expect this to be a milestone in the history of Philippine golf for our friends who are passionate about their game and their cars."

Forest Hills Inv'l slated May 18-21

THE ANNUAL PH INVITATIONAL WILL BE HELD MAY 18-21 at the Forest Hills Golf and Club in Antipolo City with 120 two-man teams expected to participate. All pars of the Jack Nicklaus course will slate hole-in-one prizes ranging from a brand new Hyundai Tucson SUV, Nike and Wilson golf sets, and a Club Car "Precedent" golf cart. Attractive raffle prizes, including a Plasma TV, will be raffled off during the awarding ceremony. Registration ends May 7. For details, call She Piñero at 6671641 to 43.



Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.



WILLY Miller steals the show in the trick shot and obstacle competition during the PBA All Star in Cagayan de Oro.

NBA Legends preparing harder for RP Team

By Francis Ochoa

FOR SO LONG, COACH CHOT REYES' TEAM HAS been looking for a chance to show just how far it has grown.

"There's the irony there," said Reyes. "We have a team that's really ready and very much capable of representing the country. But we can't find any place to play in."

In some little, legend-costed way, Reyes' Pilipinas Basketball saw its prayers answered.

Tomorrow, the squad goes up against Dennis Rodman and the rest of the crew of the "Bad Boys" team, which is making sure it will put forward its best face against some of the top Filipino players in the country.

The two teams collide at 5:30 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum and despite the big, recognizable names dotting the US roster, Reyes has managed to see past the

glitter and recognize where the threat to his team will come from.

"It's basically Rodman, who's in very good game shape, and the five players from the NBA Developmental League (NBDL)," Reyes said.

The NBDL standouts includes Ola Rumble, who dropped different dunks on the way to a 33-point effort against San Miguel's touring all-star squad composed of retired professional basketball stars. Then there's Myron Allen, who scattered 25 and Chad Wilkerson, who chipped in with 18.

"They can shoot, run the floor and dominate inside. And if push comes to shove, they have the veterans to provide

the experience if the game calls for it."

The veterans include Otis Birdsong, Sidney Moncrief, Darryl Dawkins and Hall-of-Famers Alex English and Calvin Murphy, who have been buried in practice in anticipation of a tough match against Pilipinas Basketball.

Cebu fans witnessed Rodman and company crush the San Miguel team, 124-94.

"The fans there had a magnificent time," said Mario Whitmire, president of the organizing West End Sports.

And Reyes believes it's time for fans to see what his team can do.

"Basically, we want to reinforce the idea that our program is still on track despite the obstacles and adversities coming our way," Reyes said.

Former MVPs Asi Tikitave and Willie Miller, Alaska's Nic Belasco and Mike Coetz, Air21's Ren-Ren Rituado, Talk N Text's Jimmy Alapag and Magnolia ace Kelly Williams lead the team.

Game is at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are still available through TicketNet at 911-5555.

SPORTSWATCH

Asingan bikefest rolls off April 30

THE ANNUAL ASINGAN, PANGASINAN, BIKEFEST WILL BE HELD TODAY. IT WILL cover a distance of 178 km traversing all the 6th District towns of Pangasinan. Dubbed the 13th Engineers Fidel G. Ginez Cycling Classic, it will have 150 participants, including the touted Pagcor team led by 1996 Marlboro Tour titlist Victor Esparitu, Lloyd Reynante, defending champion Albert Primero and the Pintaki Boyz of Jacy Garcia. A total cash prize of P66,000 plus trophies and medals will be at stake with the champion getting P12,000. All participants will be given T-shirts while all survivors will get P300.

North York sports program May 2

THE ANNUAL SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM OF THE NORTH YORK ALLIED INSTITUTE (NYAI) of Quezon City starts on May 2 at the NYAI Gymnasium on 51 Congressional Ave., Cor Socorro Rd. Project 8, Quezon City. NYAI vice president and CEO Ramon N. Gemina Jr. said the event aims to provide youngsters well-rounded training and gainful way of spending their vacation. The month-long affair begins with a motorcade and grand acquaintance party to be attended by local government authorities, school officials and community leaders. Activities include sports clinics in basketball, volleyball and taekwondo. Aside from the summer youth program, enrollment for high school and pre-school is going on. For inquiries, call 927-6127 or 927-8094, Monday to Saturday.

Stockinger out to set mark in Batangas

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—FOLLOWING HIS STERLING PERFORMANCE IN Malaysia, Bicol lead driver Marion Stockinger hopes to stamp his mark as the 2006 Shell Helix-CAU Superkarting Series stages its second leg today at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas. In the absence of Michele Burgooner and Matteo Guidicelli, Stockinger carried the fight for the Philippines and bagged the Rotax Max Seniors crown in the kickoff leg of the 2006 Asian Zone Karting Open Championship at the Shah Alam Circuit in Malaysia. Also bringing home honors for the country were Renz Paczoguin, who captured the Mini Rok plum; John Alvarez of the Cebu Racing Group, who finished runner-up in the Junior Rok division; Paolo Gonzales, who ended fourth in the Mini Rok, and Franco Reyes, who placed third in the Cadet 85 class. Stockinger hopes to surpass his third place finish in the Commons kickoff leg and put up a strong fight against first leg champion Matteo Guidicelli and Intaco's Daniel Cleak in the combined Formula 125 and Rotax Max Seniors.

Fistorama, Golf Power today

FISTORAMA FEATURES THIS AFTERNOON EXCITING BOUTS BETWEEN DARYL Amilios and Kevin de la Cruz in the light heavyweight division and the 10-round bout between Rey Martizano and Bernabe Concepcion in the superbantamweight division. These fights were recently held in Taguig City as part of Taguig's foundation week festivities. Fistorama is shown through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV and RPN-9. Golf Power Plus featuring the 8th Samsung Philippine International Junior Golf Championships airs at 3 p.m.

All Breed Dog Show at Eagle Ridge

FOREIGN JUDGES WILL BE ON HAND TO CHOOSE THE WINNERS IN TODAY'S Cavite Canine Club, Inc. All Breed Dog Show at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Residential Estate Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite. More than 150 canines brought in from Cavite, Baguio, Bicol and Pampanga and as far as Cebu and Iloilo are participating in the event starting at 9 a.m. at the basketball court inside the Family Sports Clubhouse of the 700-hectare Eagle Ridge. Admission is free and spectators will be able to see various breeds from Dobermanns, Labradors, German Shepherds, Chihuahuas, Poodles and many more, according to Cavite Canine Club president Eduardo Sy. Sy said that three foreign judges who are all veterans of the best dog shows in the world - Robert Dawson, Rocio de Vega and Dr. Raymundo Lo - have planned in for the event. The Cavite Canine Club Dog Show is one of the highlights of the summer activities at Eagle Ridge, which boasts facilities for basketball, bowling, badminton, tennis, swimming, billiards aside from its championship courses.

Las Piñas holds cockfest today

A BIG Sunday crowd is expected at the fully air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum tonight when the special 3-cock derby gets going at 7 with 51 fights lined up. It will be an exciting showdown of invited cockers from Cavite, Batangas, Paranaque, Las Piñas, Paranaque and Pasay, said host Romly Bustamante who put up a cash prize of P300,000 for the winners. Call 873-1040 and 874-3810 for details. Meanwhile, LPC coliseum manager Alex Tobias said that regular cockfights are scheduled from Monday to Sunday. A bonus of P1,000 per win (first 20 winners only) will be given away. Likewise, aficionados may win gamelanis from Aguilar Farms in the raffle draw.

SJC 5-cocker submission of weights

OFFICIAL ENTRIES TO SAN JUAN COLISEUM'S UPCOMING 5-COCK DERBY must be submitted today from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sponsor is Sagupan Complexor 3000. To be hosted by Bacolod breeder Arnold Mendoza, the derby kicks off tomorrow with a guaranteed prize of P500,000 on the line. Also lined up is the Gentleman Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-cock derby on May 3. The first ever SJC 9-cock International Derby will be staged on June 5, 7 and 9. All the participants will be designated as hosts and will receive half of derby proceeds. For details, call 725-5665 and 725-5369 and 0917-8041591 (Ariel).



Girls Nat'l football tourney ready for San Carlos kickoff

JESSICA RYON, THE PROLIFIC 16-year-old striker of Southville International School in Las Pinas City will be one of the most guarded and watched girls in the 1st PFF National Women's Under-17 Championship that will be held from May 8-13 in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental.

The two-footed number 7 player, also a member of the U-Ha girl's football club, is playing with the Muntinlupa-Paranaque-Las Pinas (MPL) selection appearing for the first time in a Philippine Football Federation tournament. Tasha from Woodrose School, April of Miriam College and Becca De La Sale Zobel are three other players expected to contribute to MPL's campaign. They are currently honing their skills in a Visayas-touring football camp.

The event is an undertaking of the San Carlos City Football Club, the Negros Occidental Football Association and the Office of the Mayor of the City of San Carlos. It is backed by PFF sponsor-partners Red Ribbon Bakeshop, 2Go and Petron.

The inaugural games pit Cebu against Masbate and Davao against Bukidnon in Group A. Iloilo faces Iligan while South Cotabato takes on Negros Oriental in Group B. Cagayan de Oro meets Iloilo and in the match of the day, home team Negros Occidental tests the nerves of the Muntinlupa-Paranaque-Las Pinas selection.

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the San Carlos City Football Club,

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SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006

Sunday SPORTS

A33

Lakers put Suns in a black hole

LA-Phoenix series puts MVP race in spotlight

LOS ANGELES—ARE WE SURE THIS MVP race is over?

Ballots for the Most Valuable Player award have been cast already, based on the NBA regular season. The winner won't be announced for a while, probably after the first round. Of course, that doesn't stop newshounds from sniffing around for results.

The word is that Steve Nash of the Phoenix Suns will be named MVP for the second season in a row, with Kobe Bryant of the Lakers somewhere in a group of runners-up with LeBron James, Dirk Nowitzki and Chauncey Billups.

The argument for Nash, the league's assists leader, over Bryant, its scoring leader, is that Nash does more of that making-his-team-better stuff that purists love.

But here's the thing: What if Bryant's team beats Nash's in the first round?

"Too late!" Phoenix coach Mike D'Antoni said.

"You always have a healthy discussion whether it's Kobe or Chauncey Billups or Steve or LeBron James—you can go right down the list," D'Antoni said. "Is Steve deserving? Oh, yeah. Is Kobe? Absolutely. I happen to like my guy."

Still, there's the official result, and there's the court of public opinion.

Suns vs. Lakers, Nash vs. Kobe, is being played for that jury.

It wouldn't be the first time, but it would be one of the more dramatic examples of the playoffs providing ammunition for the bitter complaints of fans of a losing Most Valuable Player candidate.

The last time an MVP was knocked out of the first round of the playoffs was in 1979. That was Moses Malone, then of the Houston Rockets, who were

bounced by the Atlanta Hawks.

Since then, eight MVPs were knocked out of the playoffs in later rounds and three MVPs got a playoff comeuppance against a voting runner-up: Julius Erving, whose Philadelphia 76ers were beaten by Larry Bird's Boston Celtics (1981 conference finals); Bird, whose Celics were beaten by Magic Johnson's Lakers (1985 Finals); and Karl Malone, whose

Utah Jazz was beaten by Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls (1997 NBA Finals).

Also, there were Charles Barkley's Suns losing to Jordan's Bulls (1993),

David Robinson's San Antonio Spurs losing to Hakeem Olajuwon's Rockets (1995), Allen Iverson's 76ers losing to Shaq's Lakers (2001), and Tim Duncan's Spurs losing to Shaq's and Kobe's Lakers (2002).

Oh, and there was Nash's Suns falling to Duncan's Spurs in last season's West finals.

What this could become, if the Lakers knocked off the Suns, is the first time in a long time that the MVP found himself credited before his MVPship is announced. This series is two Most Valuable Players doing their best to win, and so far, Kobe is winning. The ballots may be in, but history's verdict is on the line. *New York Times* News Service

NBA on TV:

SUNDAY SPORTS—LA Clippers vs Denver (10:30 a.m. live, replay at 7 p.m.)
ESPN—LA Clippers vs Denver (10:30 a.m.)
Detroit vs Milwaukee (9 p.m.)

Grizzlies' Miller wins Sixth Man Award

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—Memphis Grizzlies guard Mike Miller won the NBA's Sixth Man Award on Friday after making the transition from starter to reserve. Miller led the NBA in scoring off the bench this season, averaging 13.7 points. He ranked second in scoring for the Grizzlies and was second in rebounding with a 5.4 average. He also tied for third in assists. Miller started last year and had no problem playing a backup role as the team adjusted to roster changes. Miller, in his sixth season with the NBA and rookie of the year in 2001, is happy with his new assignment. AP

Maddux still perfect; Pujols ties MLB record

CHICAGO—A 40-YEAR-OLD GREG MADDUX won his fifth straight start to be 5-0 starting the season for the first time in his distinguished career as the Chicago Cubs beat the Milwaukee Brewers, 6-2, on Friday.

Twice facing bases-loaded jams, Maddux escaped to earn his 323rd victory, one win shy of tying Nolan Ryan and Don Sutton for 13th place all-time in Major League Baseball.

He gave up eight hits and two runs in six innings and was backed by a homer and a strong defensive play from shortstop Ronny Cedeno.

Jacque Jones also homered for the Cubs.

Maddux is 13-3 against the Brewers, representing his best winning percentage against any National League team.

Dave Bush (2-2) lasted six innings, giving up 10 hits and five runs.

In St. Louis, Albert Pujols tied the major league record with his 13th home run in April, but Nick Johnson and Ryan Zimmerman homered in the first inning to lead Washington past St. Louis, 8-3, for the win.

Pujols' drive in the eighth inning came off a 2-0 pitch from Felix Rodriguez and matched the mark shared by Ken Griffey Jr. in 1997 with Seattle and Luis Gonzalez in 2001 with Arizona. It was Pujols' first homer in four games and left him with two games this month to break the record.

Tony Armas (2-2) worked six solid innings for Washington, which ended a five-game losing streak.

Jason Marquis (3-2) allowed seven runs and eight hits in five innings for the Cardinals.

In San Francisco, Barry Bonds hit a bases-clearing double to tie Babe Ruth for third on the career list with 1,356 extra-base hits and also singled in a run for his fourth RBI as San Francisco trounced Arizona, 10-2.

Jason Schmidt (3-2) struck out nine in seven strong innings on the way to his first victory of the season and Moises Alou hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs. Pedro Feliz and Randy Winn also drove in runs and Omar Vizquel had three hits and scored twice for the Giants, who snapped Arizona's three-game winning streak.

Bonds, who needs four home runs to pass Ruth's 714 for second on the career list, came to the plate with the bases loaded and two outs in the third, forcing Miguel Batista (2-1) to pitch to him. AP



NADAL: Chasing record

FOR DYING MOM

Teenage golfer builds a lifetime of memories

REUNION—THE MAGIC WAS MISSING, but the memories will never fade. Not for a 13-year-old fulfilling a dream for her dying mother, showing great promise in the process and embracing the spotlight one more day.

Dakoda Dowd made fun of her mom for crying when she was happy, but the junior golfer from Palm Harbor could not help herself Friday when she completed her much-anticipated run at the Gina Clubs & Resorts Open in her first LPGA Tour event.

Tears flowed after her 82. It was a score she dearly would love to have lowered, but it helped put into context how remarkable her first-round 74 was on the 6,531-course at Reunion Resort.

"It was everything I thought it would be and more," Dowd said of playing in the tournament. "I'm not happy to be done. I wanted to keep playing. But it was a great experience and I really just think that the reason for this was for my mom to watch me reach my dream."

Kelly Jo Dowd was there for all 36 holes, riding a cart around the course and stopping at tees and greens to get a glimpse of her daughter competing on the ultimate stage.

Fleeting hope

For a time Friday afternoon, Dakoda harbored fleeting thoughts of making the 36-hole cut, a feat that would have made her the youngest in LPGA history. But a double bogey on the 12th hole



WHEN it's all over, Dakoda Dowd (left) will always have this snapshot with mom Kelly Jo—and a memorable LPGA tournament start—to look back to.

all but quashed that dream. For a 13-year-old playing on a course that's 500 yards longer than she is accustomed to and competing against pros, well, reality had to set in at some point.

"She made mama's cut today," said Kelly Jo, whose desire to see her daughter play in an LPGA Tour event turned into a national story.

When the Ginn Company, which is sponsoring the first-year, \$2.5-million event, heard about Kelly Jo's terminal cancer, it offered Dakoda a sponsor exemption, asked the LPGA Tour to add a player to the field so nobody would be

knocked out, then spent most of the past six months helping her promote cancer awareness.

"I feel about as happy as I've ever felt in my life," Kelly Jo said at a green-side ceremony after the round, where she was presented with a replica of the trophy the winner will receive Sunday. "I thank the Lord for opening up this door for us. I thank all the people that have helped make a dream come true for me."

Dakoda missed the cut by eight shots, tied for 128th. She finished better than 10 players in the field. All though she failed to break 80 Friday, there were 20 other scores of 80 or higher.

And she showed remarkable poise under pressure, especially the first day when all eyes were on her.

Glimpses

"I think you got a glimpse of her potential (Thursday)," said Matt Mitchell, her instructor and caddie. "And I think you got a glimpse of a normal 13-year-old (Friday)."

"She was a little bit off. She got a little bit emotional, and how could she not in this situation? There was a lot going on."

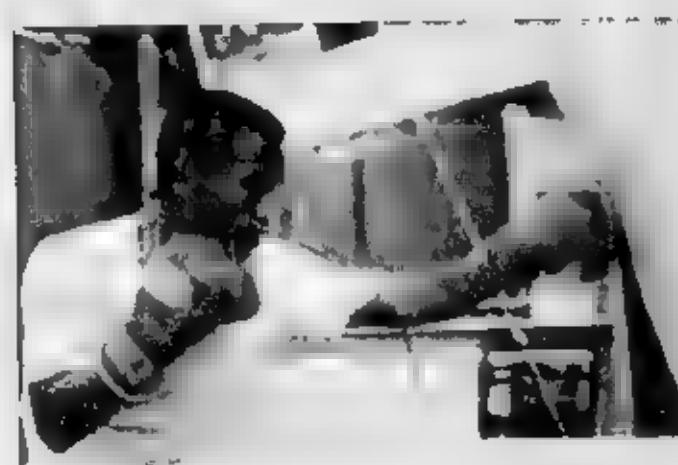
The Dowds will stick around to watch the tournament, led by South Korea's Mi Hyun Kim (66-136), followed by Mexico's Lorena Ochoa (70-137) and Japan's Ai Miyazato (68-138).

And you get the feeling they'll be happy to relax.

"The whole process has been wonderful but draining," Dakoda's father, Mike Dowd, said.

"We're thrilled and happy to be able to have the opportunity to watch our girl do her thing and now kind of get out of the way. We created enough distractions for these women who are trying to earn a living. And it was awesome of them to let us interrupt what they do for a couple of days. We deeply appreciate that."

New York Times News Service



MAYOL hits the punching bag in Tokyo.

Mayol flashes sharp form for May 6 WBC title fight

By Salven L. Lagumbay

UNDEFEATED RODEL MAYOL displayed a sharp, fiery form as he tapered off training for his May 6 WBC minimum weight title bout against champion Eagle Kyowa in Tokyo.

Mayol, WBC No. 1 mini-

minimumweight contender, impressed onlookers in his first 10-round sparring in Japan against newly crowned OPBF minimumweight champ Akira Yaegashi yesterday.

Mayol and Yaegashi sparred at the Dream Gym (Higashi Joju), located in the Oji area in Tokyo.

"Yes, I sparred ten rounds yesterday," said Mayol from his lair in Tokyo. "My conditioning is really great. A Filipino engineer, Lito Magbuos, came to the gym to show his support."

Mayol is set to do another 6-round sparring gym, while a press preview will be held on

Monday when he spars before Japanese mediamen.

The press preview sparring will be Mayol's last, before he plunges into action against Kyowa. The durable reigning champion is a Thai who now resides in Japan.

Kyowa and Mayol are handled by Japanese managers.



UPHOLDING HONESTY, INTEGRITY, AND FAIR PLAY THE LASALLIAN RESPONSE TO THE UAAP BOARD DECISION

De La Salle University (DLSU) received on April 24 the official copy of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) decision to suspend DLSU for a period of one year on the ground that the University was "negligent" in verifying the eligibility documents prior to or at the time of its submission to the UAAP. In rendering this decision, the UAAP Board in effect censures all the athletes of DLSU, from the juniors and seniors level, for an offense that arguably was out of honest omission and which was brought to the attention of the UAAP Board by the University itself.

This issue goes beyond the realm of interschool sports competition. It touches on our integrity as an educational institution and strikes at the heart of our cherished traditions. On what basis were we considered negligent? Was there due process in arriving at this decision? How grave was our offense, if any, to deserve a one-year suspension from all sporting events? The decision of the UAAP Board raises more questions than it provides answers.

We have not been negligent. It is perhaps unfortunate that DLSU was the only one that came out in the open. DLSU exercises standards higher than what is required by established procedures such as those contained in the Manual of Regulations for Private Schools and other government issuances. Prior to August 18, 2005, there was presumptive validity in the authenticity of documents. In the same manner that bank notes or other government-issued documents are taken for its face value unless otherwise proven by an authority with technical competence, DLSU did what any other school would perhaps have done. Moreover, and perhaps unknown to many, the lone security feature of the questioned document is a watermark that is detectable only by a special equipment. As early as July 2005, we attempted to raise the standards of record management by initiating a verification process that is not required at that time. In fact, we can dare say that DLSU was one among the very few schools which underwent this verification process prior to this incident. We were told that, in fact, there has been a significant increase in the number of schools requesting verification of PEPT documents after this came out publicly. The Department of Education (DepEd) letter of August 18, 2005 would not have materialized had it not been for an earlier proactive step that we took in our communication to the DepEd on August 2. Justice also demands that investigations of this nature take time because of the need to temper decisiveness with prudence. While it took DepEd less than two weeks to respond to our letter of August 18 identifying the first spurious document, it took the DepEd about eight weeks to finally determine the validity of the other spurious document. In the case of the UAAP board, it took them about half a year to release its decision on our case in response to our voluntary disclosure contained in our letter of October 6.

We acted in good faith. We went beyond what was required. We admitted the painful truth. But the Board ruled that we were negligent.

We were denied due process. With sincere faith in a fair judgment, we submitted to the UAAP all the relevant documents to prove that there was no complicity in the anomaly. Our officials have been called to appear before the UAAP Fact Finding Committee and they responded honestly to all the questions asked. They submitted all the evidences required, a number of which show that the University took deliberate action after uncovering the bogus documents. All these documents and responses have not been taken into account by the UAAP Board as their decision does not even refer to any of the documents and statements we have submitted or the inquiries they have conducted. The decision does not explicitly refer to any specific provision in the UAAP rules and regulations. The charges have not been identified and we have not been given the chance to refute those allegations or defend our position.

We submitted ourselves to the authority of the Board. We cooperated fully with their investigation. We waited for six months for their decision. But the Board remained vague and arbitrary.

We do not deserve suspension. There was no deliberate attempt on the part of the University to commit any offense or to connive with those at fault. We introduced significant changes in admission policies especially in the submission of hand-carried documents. We ordered the return of the 2004 Championship trophy. We requested for a leave of absence in men's basketball for Season 69 to institute internal reforms. We believe that the decision to suspend DLSU in all sporting events is excessively punitive, consigning the rest of our student athletes to an isolated state, depriving them in the medium term of a competitive inter-school league whose record has been established not by the current roster of board members but by the athletes themselves—past and present—and who have painstakingly prepared to bring glory to their alma mater, excel in the sport they play, and subsequently represent the nation in international competitions.

We forfeited the games we played the past two seasons. We requested a leave of absence from men's basketball for the forthcoming season. We addressed the gaps in our sports program. But the Board dismissed all these.

We deserve nothing less than a forthright clarification from the UAAP. We are more than willing to submit ourselves to the decision of a body that upholds justice, respects due process and values honesty and fairness. We have sent to the UAAP on April 27 a letter to seek clarification on these issues. We will deliberate on our options after we have received their response.

As an educational institution, we believe that this experience should allow us to implement the reforms necessary within and beyond our institution and mentor the young people entrusted to our care with the values of honesty, integrity and fair play. It is our sincere prayer that the UAAP member universities will share the same values that we stand for. This is not just about basketball. This is not just about sports. This is not even just about UAAP. And, definitely, this is not about winning at all costs. As difficult as this experience has been for the members and stakeholders of the University, we are certain that we have become stronger and our conviction to pursue truth, honesty and integrity will be much more resolute than ever.

Why be honest when it pays to be dishonest? Why fight for others when they won't fight for you?—or even for themselves? . . . The answer I think lies in what life means to you. If life means having a good time, money, fame, power, security—then you don't need principles; all you need are techniques. On the other hand, if happiness counts more than a good time, respect more than fame, right more than power and peace of soul more than security; if death doesn't end life but transforms it, then you must be true to yourself and to God and to love the truth, justice, and freedom that are God's other names.

Jose "Pepe" Diokno
Lasallian Alumnus

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

GMA invited as Palaro '06 main guest

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS BEEN invited to be the keynote speaker when the 2006 Palarong Pambansa is held May 7-13 in Naga City.

Len Toledo, the Palaro national coordinator of the Department of Education, announced this the other day, adding that all systems are go for the annual sports meet which will mark its return to Bicolandia after only four years.

Toledo said the delegation from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao was expected to arrive in Naga City yesterday.

All 17 sports in the calendar will be held at the newly renovated Metro Naga Sports Complex except for the elimination round of the basketball and lawn tennis events which will be played in Iriga City.

The 15 other sports on tap are archery, athletics, badminton, boxing, chess, football, gymnastics, sipa, sepak takraw, softball, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo and volleyball.

Arms and dancesports will be held as demonstration sports.

Exhibition games in wheelchair basketball and wheelchair tennis and seminars in sports for the differently abled will also be held in preparation for their inclusion in the future Palaro stagings, according to Toledo.

Some 8,000 elementary and high school students are expected to take part in the Palaro which also invited Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Ramirez and Philippine Olympic Committee president Pepe Cojuangco as guests of honor.



ARROYO

*So suffers
2nd defeat
in Dubai tilt*

FILIPINO FIDE master Wesley So suffered his second straight defeat in the 8th Dubai Open Friday, bowing to Indian journalist IM Vishal Saran at the Dubai Chess and Culture Club in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



With his second straight loss, the 12-year-old So from Cavite remained with 3.5 points and dropped to a share of 41st place with three rounds to go.

So, who yielded after 55 moves of a Sicilian Defense Ruyke-Rauzer, will face GM Parik Bisits of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the seventh round.

Despite So's loss, National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) president and Surigao del Sur representative Prospero "Buchi" Pichay is still hoping So could gain an International Master result.

Second seed GM Darren Sadakovas of Kazakhstan took the solo lead with a masterful conquest of fellow super GM Evgenij Miroshnichenko of Ukraine after 48 moves of a Sicilian Defense to score 5.5 points.

Four players are tied for second spot with 5.0 points each after the sixth round. They are No.3 Gabriel Sargisian of Armenia, No.6 GM Giorgi Kacheishvili of Georgia, No.8 GM Sergey Fedorchuk of Ukraine and No.11 GM Tigran Petrosian of Armenia.

The event lured 20 GMs, 17 IMs and 40 other titled players in pursuit of prizes totaling \$40,000.

NM Marion Bernardino

ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Beauty to Lani: Nothing to fear

By Nini Valera

PRECIOUS LARA QUIGAMAN, BONG Revilla's new screen partner, has assured the senator-actor's wife Lani Mercado that there is nothing to fear.

"I would ask [Lani] to come to the set," Miss International 2005 said, "so she would see that she need not worry. From what I know about show biz, the leading man is always linked to his [love interest] while the

movie is being shot. This is nothing new."

Quigaman has taken the place of Gretchen Barretto, rumored to be a former girlfriend of Revilla's, for the role in Imus Productions' "Kapag Tumibok Ang Puso... Not Once, But Twice," directed by Wen Deramas.

The beauty queen plays Revilla's young wife. Her appearance is being billed under "special participation."

On her first shooting day with the senator, Quigaman told INQUIRER Entertainment that she didn't mind being second choice.

"I accepted this movie because I laughed so hard when I read the script," she said. "It's really a family movie. I would bring my own brothers and sisters to watch it the movie, even if I'm not in it."

This is the beauty queen's first screen outing. Her only acting experience was portraying herself in "Magpakailanman," on GMA 7.

Not good enough

Even now that she has bagged the leading lady role in the Revilla starrer,

Quigaman confided that she did not feel she was good enough to be an actress.

"I still need more workshops," she said. "That's why I'm feeling nervous."

Her leading man was quick to boost her confidence.

"In all fairness," he said, "she was good in that episode of 'Magpakailanman.'

That's why we thought of asking her."

Real lead

Ai-Ai de las Alas is really the movie's star, the comedian herself pointed out.

"I don't see why they're fighting over who the leading lady is," De las Alas said, straight-faced. "Can't they see that I'm the one?"

In the movie, the comedian plays a transplant patient who receives the heart of the Quigaman's character.

BEAUTY/A2-2

PRECIOUS Lara Quigaman: "I'd ask her to visit the set."

Was ABS-CBN eyeing 'Idol' co-prod deal with ABC 5?

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE RUMOR WAS RELAYED TO INQUIRER Entertainment by a Kapamilya insider: ABS-CBN is eyeing a co-production deal with ABC 5 for "Philippine Idol."

Not true, said Malou K. Espinosa, vice president for Government, Corporate Affairs and PR, in an official statement sent to INQUIRER Entertainment: "No discussion ever took place between ABS-CBN and ABC 5 to produce 'Philippine Idol.'"

Determined

Roberto V. Barreiro, ABC 5 managing director for News and Entertainment, recounted a slightly different story: "It's a format that any network would like to have. It wouldn't be surprising if ABS-CBN or any other network wanted to have it in their line-up. But, as we speak right now, we are determined to hold on to it."

Barreiro said, "FremantleMedia [the show's UK-based producer] talked to all the networks, as its agents routinely ask local networks if they are interested. But in the early days, networks thought they could just produce shows inspired by a foreign concept. Now, it has been proven that purchasing the production 'bible' increases chances of success."

This was confirmed by Espinosa. "While it is true that the producers of 'American Idol' first offered ABS-CBN the show during the time of former network president Freddie M. Garcia a few years ago, we declined since we already had an existing show, 'Star in a Million,' [with a similar format]."

But were feelers sent by ABS-CBN after ABC finally acquired the "Idol" franchise last February, following three years of negotiation?

Barreiro recalled, "There was some talk on how we could work together. But it wasn't formal. It was just mentioned in passing."

The question as raised, he said, was, "Is

there a way to cooperate? But nothing firm came out of it."

According to the Kapamilya source, ABC will benefit from ABS-CBN's extensive network of provincial stations, particularly during the auditions (to be held in Manila, Cebu and Davao starting in May).

"It's really going to help," Barreiro admitted. "But we are also capable of generating hype because we have big media partners like Radio Mindanao Network (RMN) and Manila Broadcasting Company (MBC). RMN takes charge of Visayas and Mindanao; MBC, the whole of Luzon. SM Malls is our partner for the fast-track (audition and promotional) activities."

Barreiro said the response of their business partners had caught them by surprise.

"We've been getting calls every day from other entities that hope to work with us," he said. "Other corporations want to be identified with 'Idol' because it's wholesome and has a very good success record. It's a hit in over 30 countries."

Still, the question remains: Will Filipinos embrace "Idol," in spite of the glut of amateur singing contests on air?

Composer Ryan Cayabyab, the first RP "Idol" judge to be confirmed, was optimistic: "The time is right. The other shows have prepared the viewers for the local 'Idol.'"

Stand out

Barreiro agreed: "It will stand out. There are many local contests, but nothing compares to the [original]. I don't think the others are spending as much as we are. 'Idol' probably costs more than 'Encantadia' and other big-budget fantaseryes."

Pressed for figures, Barreiro said, "Mounting 'Idol' costs over P100 million."

Also, Barreiro noted that ABC's News and Current Affairs department will take an active part in documenting the "Idol" auditions.

"Idol" producers have a unique story-

WAS ABS-CBN A2-2



A2-2

ENTERTAINMENT

He calls this one 'Underground Radio'

By Marinel R. Cruz

A NEW RADIO STATION "FOR younger listeners" and which "supports OPM genres other than rock and pop" is set to broadcast in June, according to Pinoy rock 'n' roll icon Ramon Jacinto, owner of the station.

UR Radio, or 105.9 FM—or Underground Radio, RJ says—will play a mixture of classic and new rock that listeners do not normally hear on other radio, said Jacinto, who is also president and chief executive officer of Rajah Broadcasting.

Rajah also runs RJ FM 100.3, where Jacinto hosts his own show.

Alternative

"While RJ FM is more mainstream, the new station will play alternative tunes," said Jacinto during a visit to the Inquirer office in Makati City last week.

Jacinto cited as examples the works of music legends BB King, Led Zeppelin ("classic rock songs or those that have discernible, catchy melodies") and Eric Clapton ("those with the longest ad libs"), as well as original compositions of local artists in reggae, ska, blues and similar genres.

"There are many local artists who don't get played on radio. We want to encourage them to make more songs, at the same time attract more people to support them," said Jacinto.

Wouldn't UR compete with NU 107, which also targets the younger listening block?

"UR will cater to listeners in the 16-40 age bracket. It will not fight with NU. It won't be as loud; it will be a level lower."

Since RJ FM caters to a specific type of listener, there are many songs that we



RAMON JACINTO: "I like performing artists. It's so refreshing just to be another FM station to introduce us to younger audiences."

POWER PLANT

Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No. 8981-140-41

EIGHT BELOW GP 2:20, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30	THE WILD GP 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	STRANGER CALLS PG13 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
SILENT HILL R18 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:20	SLITHER R18 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:10	THE SENTINEL PG13 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30

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CINEPLEX		Filinvest	EASTWOOD CINEMAS	CINEMA 2000	
10:00AM	THE WILD GP	1pm	1QD10 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	1pm	1pm
2:00PM	THE SENTINEL PG13	2:00PM	2QD10 THE WILD	2:00PM	2:00PM
3:00PM	WHEN A STRANGER CALLS PG13	3:00PM	3QD10 ICE AGE-2	3:00PM	3:00PM
4:00PM	SILENT HILL R18	4:00PM	5QD10 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	4:00PM	4:00PM
PREMIERE		7:00PM	6:00PM SILENT HILL	7:00PM	7:00PM SILENT HILL
6:00PM	SLITHER R18	8:00PM	8:00PM SLITHER	8:00PM	8:00PM PARAHIN
		9:00PM	9:00PM PARAHIN	9:00PM	9:00PM D'LUCKY ONES
		10:00PM	10:00PM D'LUCKY ONES		
CINEMA 2000		Blue Wave		Cinema 2000	
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati		Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Rosa, Laguna City tel. 934-1921		Waltermart (Calamba) tel. (049) 545-2383	
1	THE WILD	1:00PM	THE WILD	1:00PM	D'LUCKY ONES PARAHIN
2	THE SENTINEL	2:00PM	WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	2:00PM	D'LUCKY ONES WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
3	SILENT HILL	3:00PM	THE SENTINEL	3:00PM	THE WILD PARAHIN SLITHER
4	WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	4:00PM	SILENT HILL	4:00PM	D'LUCKY ONES SLITHER
5	SLITHER				
SUPER CINERAMA		Mandabong		Cinema 2000	
Iskatan Cinerama Complex Recto		Mandaluyong tel. 533-3851 / 533-3856		Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel. (075) 568-6771	
1	THE WILD	1:00PM	THE WILD	1:00PM	D'LUCKY ONES VENOM
2	WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	2:00PM	WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	2:00PM	D'LUCKY ONES VENOM
3	THE SENTINEL	3:00PM	THE SENTINEL	3:00PM	THE HILLS HAVE EYES
4	SILENT HILL	4:00PM	SILENT HILL	4:00PM	THE HILLS HAVE EYES
5	WHEN A STRANGER CALLS				
metropolis star cinema		Maragana CINEMA VERSO		Cinema 2000	
www.clicktheatres.com.ph		Mandaluyong tel. 533-3851 / 533-3856		Metrotown (Caloocan) tel. (045) 982-1729	
1	SILENT HILL	1:00PM	AMERICAN SOLDIERS	1:00PM	D'LUCKY ONES VENOM
2	WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	2:00PM	LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN	2:00PM	D'LUCKY ONES VENOM
3	SILENT HILL	3:00PM	CHINESE TALE STORY	3:00PM	D'LUCKY ONES VENOM
4	THE WILD	4:00PM	RESERVED	4:00PM	D'LUCKY ONES VENOM
THEATRES		Center Mall Cinema		Cinema 2000	
Tel. 800-123-0000		Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel. (074) 444-9348		Waltermart (Paranaque) tel. (041) 785-3329	
1	EIGHT BELOW	1:00PM	THE SENTINEL	1:00PM	WHEN THE STRANGERS CALL
2	D'LUCKY ONES	2:00PM	WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	2:00PM	D'LUCKY ONES
3	PARAHIN	3:00PM	SILENT HILL	3:00PM	THE WILD
4	RESERVED	4:00PM	PARAHIN	4:00PM	VENOM
PACIFIC MALL		Jade Cinema		Cinema 2000	
Pacific Mall Cubao Tel. (02) 665-3271		(Angeles City) tel. (045) 867-5001 to 03		Waltermart (Gapan) tel. (045) 540-4748	
1	HILLS HAVE EYES	1:00PM	THE SENTINEL	1:00PM	BASIC INSTINCT-2 AMERICAN SOLDIER
2	D'LUCKY ONES	2:00PM	D'LUCKY ONES	2:00PM	AMERICAN SOLDIER
3	RESERVED	3:00PM	RESERVED	3:00PM	FRUIT IS SWELLING
4		4:00PM	WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	4:00PM	BASIC INSTINCT-2 HAUNTED OFFICE
5					Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel. 856-1276
CINEMAGIC		Fiesta World Mall		Cinema 2000	
Pacific Mall Cubao Tel. (02) 665-3271		(Angeles City) tel. (045) 867-5001 to 03		Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel. (075) 545-7202	
1	HILLS HAVE EYES	1:00PM	THE SENTINEL	1:00PM	D'LUCKY ONES
2	D'LUCKY ONES	2:00PM	D'LUCKY ONES	2:00PM	FINAL DESTINATION-3
3	RESERVED	3:00PM	RESERVED	3:00PM	D'LUCKY ONES
4		4:00PM	WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	4:00PM	WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
5					PARAHIN
PACIFIC MALL		Centre Plaza Cinema		Cinema 2000	
Pacific Mall Cubao Tel. (02) 665-3271		(Baguio, Baguio) tel. (047) 237-7007		Waltermart (Bacoor) tel. (041) 879-2029	
1	HILLS HAVE EYES	1:00PM	D'LUCKY ONES	1:00PM	SILENT HILL
2	D'LUCKY ONES	2:00PM	PARAHIN	2:00PM	PARAHIN
3	RESERVED	3:00PM		3:00PM	
4		4:00PM		4:00PM	
5					
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NMENT



can't include in the station's programming. They will conflict with the mellow pop tunes broadcast on RJ.

You've said in past interviews that it's your wish to keep discovering new talents. Do you continue to do this?

I helped discover new talents before. I still do. In fact, I am having a series of shows with such new talents at the Captains Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City. On May 6, I will perform with Nyoy Volante. This will be the first in a series of shows, once a month, for six months.

For this series, we'll also have a guitar night—me with young guitarists like Francis Reyes and Joey Puyat.

(Performing in the series with Jacinto are Christian Bautista, Nina, Jaya, Paolo Santos and Noel Cabangon.)

How did you ferret out these young artists?

I read about them in the papers, including your section. Some of them come to RJ FM to plug their albums. Like Christian Bautista, before he became [famous], he was one of my regular visitors. I like interacting with these young artists. It's very refreshing just to be with them.

ing with talented young
them." RJ is launching
hat he calls "melodic rock"

EDWIN BACASMAS

be beleaguered Belle



CAMILLA Belle

about how the deadly serial scumbag is defeated by a quick-thinking young person that he mistakenly underestimates.

The identity of the villain is cloaked in mystery for most of the movie, and it seems for a while that it's going for a whodunit angle. But, ooh, they go for ambiguity and choose not to reveal the real motivations of the caller-stalker. He's very one-dimensional in that regard—the girl may as well have been put up against a wild animal, or nature, disaster. The stranger's lack of personality, however, isn't that important in the long run.

A gorgeous actress Belle is in almost every scene, practically making this a one-woman movie and an opportunity for her to play the besieged, beleaguered belle

(ahem). The considerable screen time is able to show different, lingering sides to her character. Belle has been around for over a decade, starting as a child actress, and will no doubt snag more high-profile roles because of this decently played, if highly run-of-the-mill, character. Her unseen enemy is voiced by Lance Henriksen (of TV's "Millennium"), aptly giving an uncomfortable, grating quality to the phone calls.

"When a Stranger Calls" ultimately doesn't portray the young woman as a victim, but the dad ending kind of leaves the story open-ended. However, the movie is able to scare, and also to get the point across that one's greatest weapon is the brain, to be used alongside strong legs and quick feet. Hooray for physical fitness!

REVIEW

A henry

Lani: Nothing to fear



BONG Revilla and Precious Lara Quigaman

that "Magpakailangan" episode and now, the imus Productions movie—and she's thankful for that taste of show biz.

As for the accompanying intrigues, she said, "I've already experienced a lot."

She's currently helping with the projects of Binibining Pilip-

inas Charities.

A future partner? She's a long way from there, Quigaman said, but was sure she'd go for a non-show biz person. "I just know I can't take it if he should do a kissing scene with another girl."

—With a report from Sheena Jade Barrion

N eyeing 'Idol' ...

From page A2-1

clear to us that this is not just a plain talent show. It's all about music and drama," Barreiro said.

Jim Libiran, head of Production of News and Current Affairs, said that his department "supplied the network's 'Idol' team with segment producers skilled at getting case studies quickly. Our goal is to look for a distinct Pilipino voice in the stories."

"To produce good television," was how Dodge M. Dilague, cre-

ative director for News and Current Affairs, summed up his job. "Idol" has three components—public affairs, variety and event. Our role is to come up with little documentaries from the auditions."

Libiran concluded: "The network expects 20,000 people in the auditions."

Needless to say, Libiran said, "ABC's Events group has already made arrangements for security measures at those auditions."

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006 **A2-1**
There are many local recording artists who don't get played on radio'

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8 5 850 R13

4 THE WILD
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8 0 850 OP

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MAY 2 & 3 2006 JAYA -VERDOME 8:00PM

MAY 1, 2006 DANCE NIGHT 7:00PM
MAY 4, 2006 JONATHAN BADON 8:30PM

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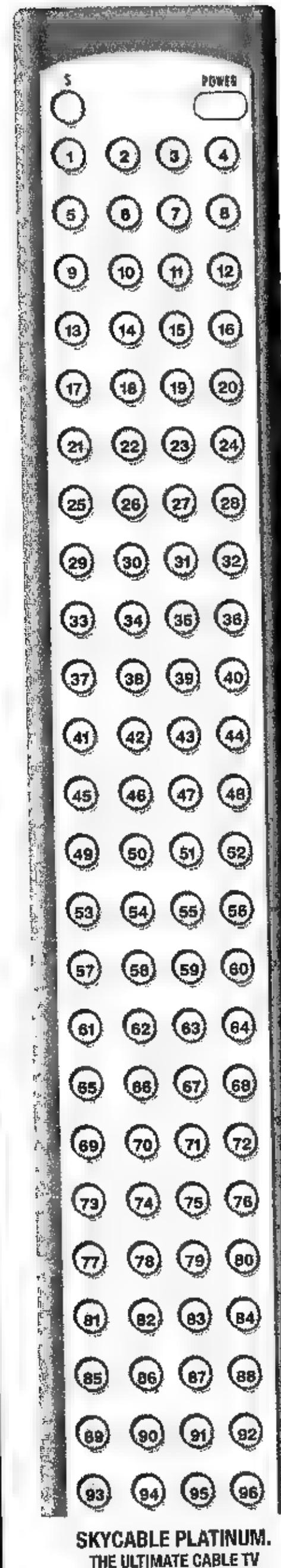
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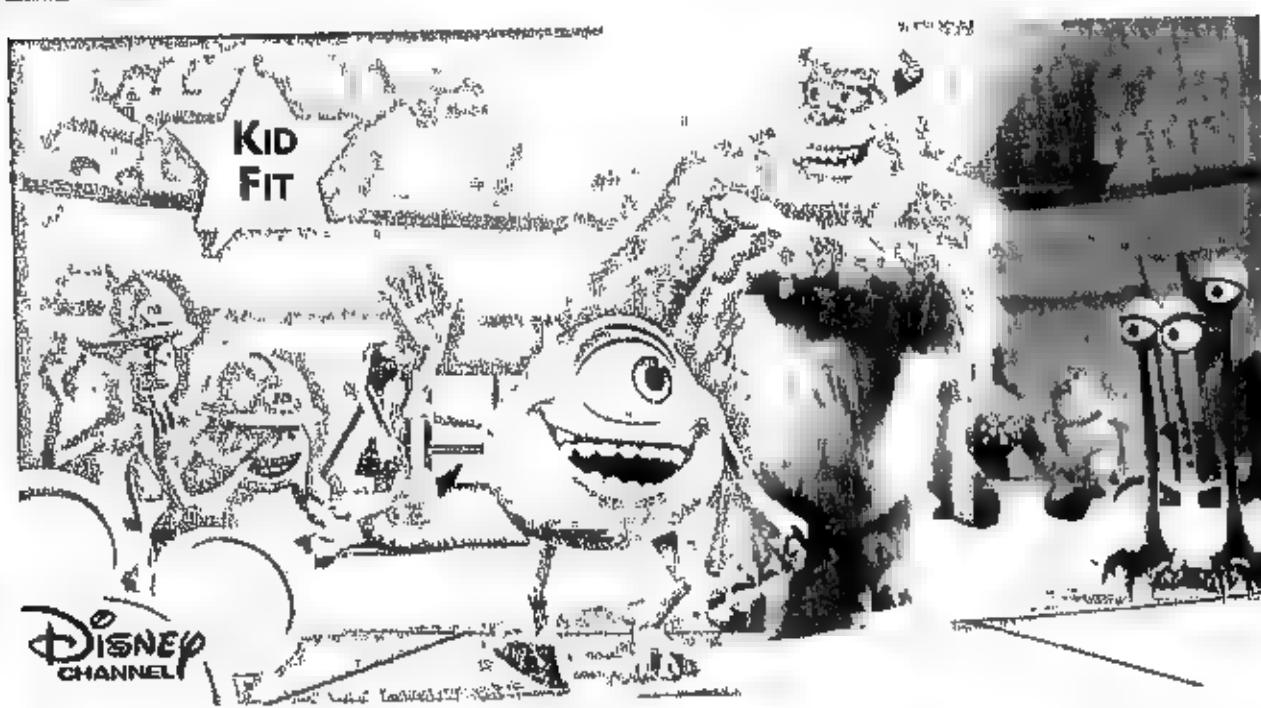
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Treats for preschoolers—and moms

THE MONTH OF MAY USHERS IN more fun on Cartoon Network.

• "Tiny TV Mother's Day Month" airs May 1 to 6, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

• "Oswald" premieres May 1 and airs weekdays, 10 p.m., in Tiny TV.

• "Firehouse Tales" starts May 1 and airs weekdays at 10:30 a.m. also in Tiny TV. All about Red, a fire truck in training.

• "Baby Looney Tunes" al. new episodes starts May 1 and airs weekdays at 8:30 a.m.

• "Robotboy" premieres on May 6 and airs weekends, 8:30 a.m. The most powerful fighting robot wants to be a real boy.

• "Pete's Dragon" al. new episodes starts May 20 and airs weekdays, 4 p.m.

• "AcceleRacers Grand Prix" features all four AcceleRacers, weekends starting May 6—Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 11 a.m.

• "Energy Bomb" returns on May 27, weekends at 7 a.m. in Toonami.

• "Gundam Seed" returns May 27,

double episodes on weekends at 10:30 p.m. in Toonami.

Disney Channel

Tomorrow is a big day at Disney Channel.

• "Get Active! Let's Party" airs at 9:30 a.m. Join the Active Kidz Scott and Amy in a fun workout.

• "Cinderella" follows at 10:30 a.m.

• "Monsters, Inc."—remember the gang?—is on at 3 p.m.

Look who's singing?

SPIN CITY



BJ 'Tolits' Forbes

Poupée. Obviously, it's mostly fun stuff

Same Same

The Moffatts' twins Clint and Bob, now known as "Same Same," have released their debut album titled "The Meaning of Happy," now available in leading stores. The duo is set to tour Asia, including the Philippines.



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ENTERTAINMENT

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Big changes for Miss RP Earth

By Armin Adina

THREE WILL BE A LOT OF changes in this year's Miss Philippines-Earth pageant, said organizer Carousel Productions during the candidates' presentation in Manila on Wednesday.

For one, said Lorraine Schuck, Carousel executive vice president, the competition was opened to all girls abroad of Filipino descent. Which explains why Filipino communities in the United States, Australia, Canada, Japan and New Zealand are represented in the 2006 lineup.

Also joining representatives from Metro Manila and regions around the country is a delegate from the Calabarzon special economic zone. "She was selected by the environment department to promote the area," Schuck said.

Familiar faces

Another landmark innovation is the all-women panel of judges. Schuck said thus year's jurors are "Filipino women who have made a global mark." They will select the country's representative to the Miss Earth pageant, which will be held in Santiago, Chile in November.

The 24 official candidates paraded in regulation Champion swimwear at the Patio Victoria in Intramuros, Manila. Among the most popular was Ginger Conejero from the US, crowned Miss Fiesta Filipina-San Francisco in 2004. Conejero has a political science degree from the University of Southern California and plans to take up law next year. She took a leave from work in an Internet company in Los Angeles to prepare for the pageant.

Although her participation came too quick-

Invitation expanded, jurors are all women

STEPHANIE Magali, 23



APRIL Love Jordan, 18

ly, her sponsors "took care of all the little things so I didn't have to worry about anything," said Conejero said, adding that she receives phone calls and text messages from Filipinos in California everyday just to make sure that everything is okay. "Tingang na-pakasarap malaman na maraming sumusupot," Conejero said in fluent Filipino.

A familiar face was Central Luzon's Francis Dianne Cervantes. The Bulacan-born lass was a semifinalist in the pageant's 2004 edition. "This time prepared no tulaga ako, I'm more confident," she said. She had taken courses in poise, personality and projection, she explained, as well as in makeup, and gown and swimsuit modeling.

Formidable neophytes

Stephanie Magali of Metro Manila joined the Binibining Pilipinas pageant last year. Since then, she said, "I have changed physically—I grew taller, for one." Unlike most pageant contestants who go on a strict diet, "I ate a lot to gain weight [for Miss Philippines-Earth]."

The neophytes are formidable as well. Among them is six-foot tall Catherine Untalan, the tallest candidate. "I'm considering every option that will be open to me, with this exposure in the pageant," said the fresh psychology graduate of the University of the Philippines.

Outgoing queen Gennebelle Raagas will relinquish her title in a colorful coronation night at the UP Theater in Quezon City on May 14. The pageant, presented by Pond's White Beauty and Myra-H, airs live on ABS-CBN.

A healthy start for a healthy heart.



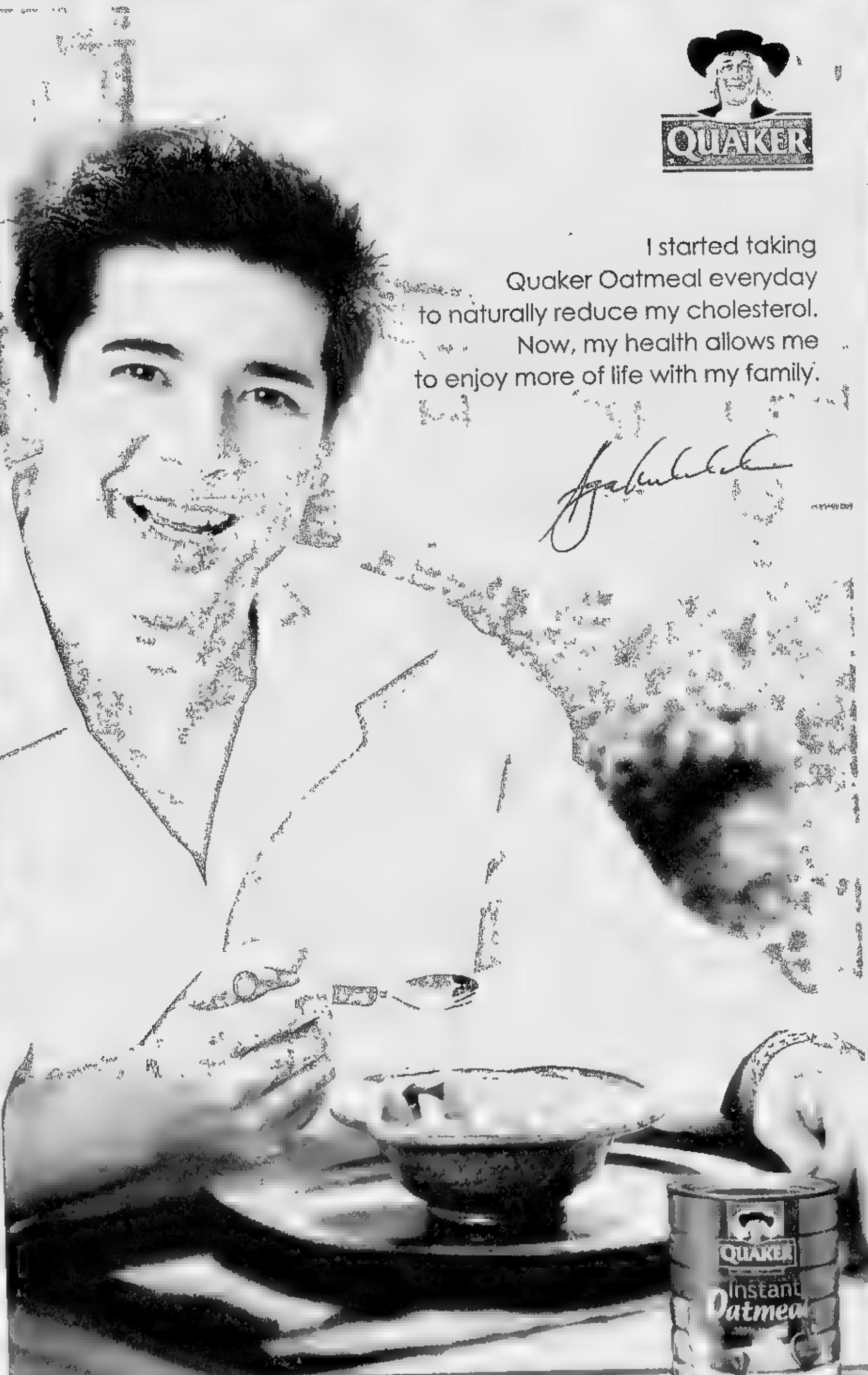
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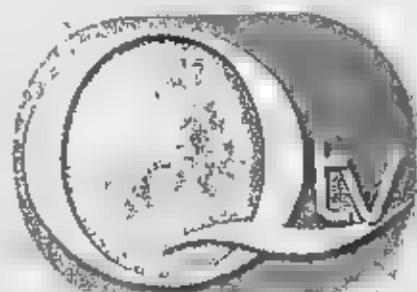


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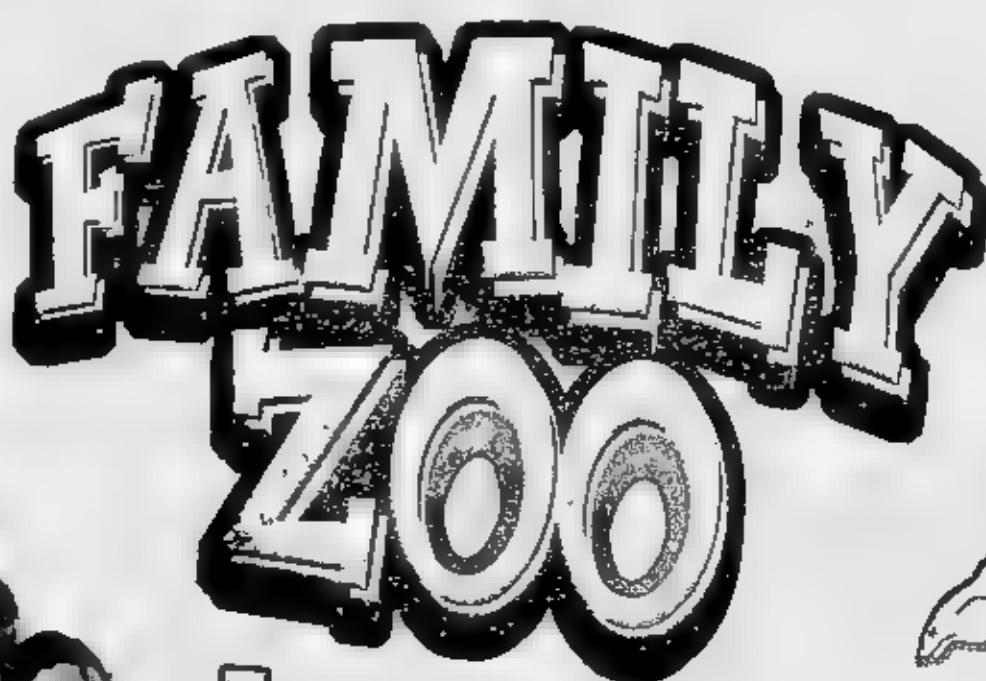
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Tuesdays
8:30 PM





ENTERTAINMENT

Formula for trouble

THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED SEASON OF ABC-5's "Shall We Dance?" celebrity challenge was a hit because it's three finalist stars Mystica, Wowee de Guzman and William Martinez and their respective dance partners worked hard on their showcase performances.

Still high from that exhilarating viewing experience, we tuned in to the celebrity dance challenge's new season last April 16—only to be rudely disappointed.

This time around, in place of the usual DI (dance instructor) partners, four Sexbomb

dancers were fielded to dance with celebrities Michael de Mesa, Tirso Cruz III, Jake Roxas and Boboy Garrovillo.

That night in "casting" proved to be a formula for trouble, since the Sexbomb girls were too raw to effectively teach their star partners how to really dance, and to conceptualize outstanding choreography for their numbers.

As a result, most of the male celebrities opted to take the line of least resistance and, instead of really dancing, just "partnered" their respective teammates, who did most of the terpsichorean work.

Obviously, this is no way to "compete" in a dance tilt, so we trust that, after having undergone their

"baptism of fire" last April 16, the celebrity hoofers will decide to give the completion everything they've got from here on in.

On the new season's premiere telecast, Boboy did best of all, because he at least bothered to infuse his dancing with a sense of fun. For his part, Jake looked uncomfortable and "resigned" himself to "escorting" his Sexbomb partner around the dance floor. Let's hope he perks up fast.

The stars' numbers were generally so weak that the show's judges had a hard time putting a positive spin on them. In trying to be upbeat, they give the dance teams scores that were generally too high for their less than commendable efforts.

Talent tilt judges should remind themselves that they're to set standards and to reward outstanding work. Giving an 8 out of a perfect 10 for weak dancing doesn't do

anybody any good.

We know that the jurors are simply trying to encourage the celebrity contestants to do better, but when the stars start doing really outstanding work, what grade will the judges give them—12 out of a perfect 10?

We trust that the new season of "Shall We Dance?" gets its act together soon, because the shows recently concluded season set a high performance standard that should inspire other stars rather than intimidate them.

Perhaps the key difference is that Mystica, Wowee and William were good dancers to begin with, and they were partners by experienced dance professionals.

Be that as it may, the current field of celebrity dancers has to do what it can to rise above its limitations or inhibitions, to sustain the show's hard-earned popularity with viewers.

Feedback

FROM Paul R. Montel: "Last April 9, I viewed a film at the Gateway 5 theater. I am glad to report that, finally, the theater aired the Philippine National Anthem before the screening, although it was only on audio. I hope Gateway's other theaters are already doing the same."

From Ed R. Corrales of Makati City: "I watched the show on the so-called Gospel of Judas, but it did not detail what the old document contained, so it was difficult for me to evaluate its message. How can we get hold of the translation?"

We have received these excerpts from the National Geographic Channel. "The Gospel of Judas" text begins, "The secret account of the revelation that Jesus spoke in conversation with Judas Iscariot during a week, three days before he celebrated Passover." It reflects themes that scholars regard as being consistent with Gnostic traditions. In the first scene, Jesus laughs at his disciples for praying to "your God" meaning the Old Testament God who created the world. He challenges them to look at him and understand what he really is, but they turn away.

"The key passage comes when Jesus tells Judas, "... you will exceed all of them. For you will sacrifice the man who clothes me."

Judas is singled out for special status. Step away from the others and I shall tell you the mysteries of the kingdom. It is possible for you to reach it, but you will grieve a great deal," Jesus says. He also tells Judas, "Look, you have been told everything. Lift up your eyes and look at the cloud and the light within it, and the stars surrounding it. The star that leads the way is your star."

"The gospel also suggests Judas will be despised by the other disciples, but will be exalted over them: ... You will be cursed by the other generations—and you will come to rule over them."

"The gospel ends abruptly: 'They (the arresting party) approved ... and he received some money and handed him over to them. No mention is made of Jesus' crucifixion or resurrection."

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"Slither"

IN the horror film "Slither" the sleepy town of Wheezy is like any small town in the United States—until farmers' livestock turn up horribly mutilated and a young woman goes missing. Sheriff Bill Pardy (Nathan Fillion) and his team uncover the dark force laying siege to the town—and come face to face with ancient organism intent on absorbing and devouring all life on earth.

Variety's Joe Leydon's take on the film: "Slither" is a gleefully nasty and ingeniously twisted horror-comedy that pits a populace of heavily-armed but mostly clueless red-necks against flesh-eating zombies, slimy extraterrestrial slugs and acid-spewing, multi-tentacled mutants. It gradually accelerates and eventually achieves a break-neck momentum that makes the ride even more exhilarating."

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

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For inquiries, call: 687-6963	THE SENTINEL 1:45, 3:45, 6:45, 8:45, 11:45 PG-13
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2 THE SENTINEL MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LMF	4 SILENT HILL MTRCB R-13 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
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SLITHER 1:20/3:25/5:30/7:25/9:45	THE WILD 1:00/3:00/5:00/7:00/9:00	D'LUCKY ONES 1:05/3:15/5:25/7:35/9:45	THE SENTINEL 2:10/4:30/6:50/9:10
ICE AGE 2 1:00/3:00/6:00 SUBMERGED 7:15/9:40	PAMAHIN 1:05/3:15/5:25/7:35/9:45	TRISTAN & ISOLDE 7:10/9:50 EIGHT BELOW 2:00/4:30	ONLY P1 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P14/P16

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THE SENTINEL 1:15/3:35/5:55/8:15	D'LUCKY ONES 1:00/2:10/4:20/6:30/8:45	SILENT HILL 12:20/3:30/5:40/8:20
PAMAHIN 12:00/2:10/4:20/6:30/8:45	WHEN A STRANGER CALLS 12:05/2:15/4:25/6:35/8:45	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA 1:00/2:10/4:20/6:30/8:45

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SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006

ENTERTAINMENT

ABC

Behind Closed Doors, a retro dance band

A NEW RETRO BAND PLAYS NOT ONLY THE hits of the '60s and '70s but also top-of-the-line ballroom music for dance enthusiasts. Behind Closed Doors is the brainchild of Mon Pestafio, the whiz kid drummer of The Robins.

Mon hits the drums anew to heat up the dance scene. On first keyboard is Pepe Pestafio, who used to play piano with The Robins and who is now BCD vocal arranger and musical director. On second keyboard is Rey Martinez, midi-arranger, providing full-orchestra sounds such as string and brass sections.

Bass guitarist is Bert Remigio, another Robins original, who became an active session musician. Playing lead guitar is Samson Abarez, who has played all over the world with various bands, and is sought after by big-name stars, foreign and local, for recordings and live concerts.

On vocals are three men and a lady, each one a seasoned soloist as well as harmonized. Louanne Cuenco, alto soprano, is a livewire performer who trained in dance before singing. She has recorded commercial jingles, sang with different showbands, and does lounge acts. Playing with BCD, her OPM hit single, "I Don't Love You Anymore," which she cut with the New Minstrels in the late '80s, is one of the most requested songs.

Benjie Bautista has been singing with different bands since high school days in Ateneo—Mom's Little Men, Unison and other groups in Korea, Japan, the Middle East. In '95 he joined Laru Misalucha's band Silk and then retired, until BCD was formed.

Bobby Ramiro has played piano and sung for audiences from China to New York. BCD is Bobby's first time to sing with a band.

Cholo Santiago started singing also in Ateneo High School (Snobs), then UP (Up From Down Under). He turned professional in '71, performing nightly with Birth of Cool in Hyatt's La Concha. He went abroad and returned in '92, when he sang with Spurit of '67 until 2005.

BCD sings Tuesday at Conway's Bar, Makati Shangrila, Wednesdays at Chef & Brewer, Ortigas, Thursday at Funside, Timog. Call (0919) 825-9510.

Powerdance tonight

"Powerdancing in the Dark" by Douglas Nieras' Powerdance opens at the Meralco Theater tonight, repeats tomorrow.

"Powerdancing" showcases a new concept in dance called Black Theater. Call 995-8287 and 995-8283.

Steven Chapman

Steven Curtis Chapman with U-Turn and a surprise guest will be perform in a live benefit concert, "I Will Be Here," on May 7, 7 p.m., at the PICC Plenary Hall. Beneficiaries are Anawin, Gawad Kalinga and Shaheenah's Hope.

Chapman, best known for writing and singing the hit "I Will Be Here," is a multi-platinum artist, five-time Grammy winner and 50 Dove Award winner. Call 633-0596.

Today

Pupil and Sandwich at MTV and Motorola "Mobbed" event in Boracay

Shamrock at Metropolis Star Alabang; 5 p.m.

Aiai Delas Alas' Maggi Magic Sarap Paengke Tour at La Paz Public Market and Jaro Plaza, Iloilo

Join the Club at Robinson's Starmills Pampanga

May 2

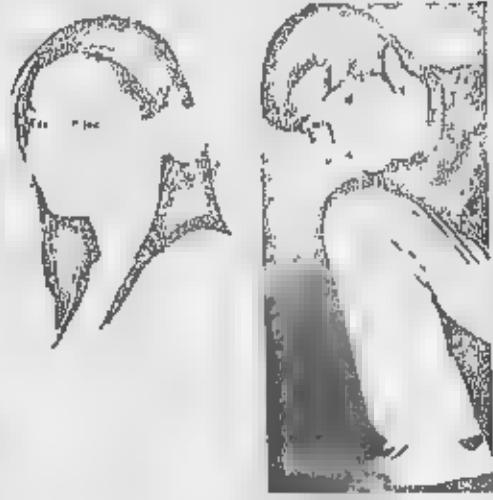
Kand The Boxers at Zirkoh Greenhills

SHOW TIME**TIME**

BEHIND Closed Doors



STEVEN Curtis Chapman



K Brosas

NYOY Volante

May 10

"Tipa... Masters of Guitars: Nyoy Volante" at Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan

K and The Boxers at Ktown Araneta

May 11

The Company at Hard Rock Café

Mon David, Nolyn Cabahug and Cynthia Alexander join UK-based Antonio Porcione in a concert at Crossroad 77 Convention Center, Mother Ignacia St., QC

Cues at Ratsky Malate

May 6

Side A at Starmall Edsa

Join the Club at Robinson's Place Manila

K and The Boxers at Ratsky Malate

May 12

Bituin Escalante in her first major concert at Onstage, Greenbelt 1

"Tipa... Masters of Guitars: Nyoy Volante" at Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan

Hale at Ratsky Malate

True Faith at Ratsky Morato

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Show schedules may change without prior notice. For verification please call 759-2777.

G1	1 D LUCKY ONES	2 SENTINEL	3 SLITHER	4 SILENT HILL
G4	1 SLITHER	2 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	3 SENTINEL	4 SILENT HILL
GB1	4 PAMAHIN	5 EIGHT BELOW	6 THE WILD	7 SILENT HILL
GB3	1 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	2 SENTINEL	3 SENTINEL	4 SILENT HILL
ATC	1 SENTINEL	2 SLITHER	3 THE WILD	4 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
ACC	3 THE WILD	4 SILENT HILL	5 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	6 SENTINEL
M2	1 SENTINEL	2 SLITHER	3 THE WILD	4 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
	3 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	4 THE WILD	5 SILENT HILL	6 SENTINEL

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April 10

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April 20

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May 3

7:30-8:30

April 14, 18, 25

May 2, 9, 10

Greenbelt 3 Park

Fernando Senna

April 22

4:00pm-8:30pm

Saturday

Alex Chan Lin

April 29

4:00pm-8:30pm

For inquiries please call the Greenbelt Customer Service at 757-4853

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ROB LOWE

A Lowe-down on his life & career

LOS ANGELES—ROB LOWE'S PRETTY FACE is maturing well.

As he settles into middle age, the hot poster boy of the '80s has also developed an easy, if self-deprecating, air about him. He can freely joke about himself. This member of the Brat Pack is lucky to have a steady career at this stage in his life. He could have fizzled into oblivion or become a has-been appearing in B projects but these days, the blue-eyed actor is enjoying a respectable, if not spectacular, run.

Fortunately for Rob, it turns out that he has acting chops that enabled him to make the transition from hunk du jour to, simply, Actor. He has a short but memorable role as a top Hollywood agent in "Thank You For Smoking." In this brilliant satire that we saw with Rob at Sundance last January (it sparked a bidding war among film distributors), his character is a source of amusing sight gags that illustrate the ostentatiousness of that powerful Hollywood animal, the Agent.

A bitingly funny adaptation of Christopher Buckley's novel, "Thank You For Smoking" stars a terrific Aaron Eckhart as a tobacco industry lobbyist with a killer smile who would do anything to put his spin across. During the Q and A after that Sundance screening, debuting filmmaker Jason Reitman, talented son of director Ivan ("Ghostbusters"), expressed surprise that a sex scene involving Aaron and Katie Holmes, who plays a Washington Post reporter (we told you Aaron's character would do anything), had been cut short.

Jason's remarks prompted speculation that Katie's man, Tom Cruise, put pressure on the film distributor to trim the sad scene. It proved to be false—it was simply a goof by the production—but the rumor persisted.

Rob—and the rest of the cast of "Thank You"—got excellent reviews. The actor, whose early credits include starring with Tom Cruise, Matt Dillon and Patrick Swayze as teenagers in Francis Ford Coppola's acclaimed 1983 film, also earned favorable notices last year when he dared venture into the London stage in the play "A Few Good Men."

Rob recently returned to the set of "The West Wing" to appear in its farewell episode. He earned the critics' respect, and ultimately an Emmy nomination for his portrayal of a White House communications director in the TV series which he quit in 2002 due to pay disputes.

The former party animal, once linked to such high-profile ladies as Monaco's Princess Stephanie, socialite Cornelia Guest and actress Nastassja Kinski, and whose high school classmates included Charlie Sheen and Sean Penn, have settled into domesticity with wife Sheryl Berkoff. The couple, married in 1991, are raising two sons in Santa Barbara, California.

When you think about the early part of your career, what comes to your mind?

A lot of my early movies are being reissued on DVD on their 20th anniversaries (laughs). I'm glad that I'm still here, talking before you guys. Lately, I've been doing a DVD commentary for the 25th year of "The Outsiders."

It makes me think about those times [when] my life was just about going from project to project and that was my total focus. I had nobody to answer to but myself. No mortgage... wife... [or] kids. You're just thinking along the lines of "Hey, I hope I can be in that new Scorsese movie." It was a really simple, fun time like we all had when we were kids. I get to re-live that every time I turn on HBO or Showtime and see one of my old movies. It's kind of cool.

What do you think about the new Rob Lowe?

I don't run into them at restaurants because I don't live here (in LA) so my exposure to the new generation—I never thought I'd be saying that (laughs)—I want to go blow my brains out now, thank you (laughs). My exposure to the new generation is limited to what I read and see. It's the same story for any generation. You're new, you're getting famous really young, you don't know who you are. The ones who have it together

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

er really stand out. In my generation, among the guys who were really focused early on was Tom Cruise. Tom always had his eye on the ball. Today, I see that in Reese Witherspoon.

Do your sons look like you?

They look a lot like their mom but yeah, they're blonde versions of me. My oldest son is going to his first sock hop this week. He's dressing as Soda Pop Curtis (Rob's character) in "The Outsiders" which gives him an unfair advantage. He's going to get some girls to dance with him based on that alone.

How old are you now?

Forty-two, but I am going to start lying about my age now (laughs).

You don't look 42.

Good, because I am going to start lying for real (laughs) in the next press conference.

I am not going to ask who you based your agent character on in "Thank You For Smoking."

You can ask.

Okay, who?

The love of all things Asian is based on Mike Ovitz because everybody knows he loves the art of war and Sun Tzu. He was very into that but the demeanor is not Mike Ovitz at all. The demeanor is actually a combination of three or four people that I cannot name but it's the new version of powerful "ageing." In the old days it was, "You'll never work in this town again."

That's much too messy. So now, it is equally as full of shit, if you'll excuse me (laughs). Now, it's "We're just humble people (laughs), artists trying to put people together." That's the new dynamic and that's what I was trying to do.

What's the worst piece of advice that an agent has given you?

That I should take a movie for way less than I'd ever made before. I thought, wow, if that's what he thinks I'm worth, I'd better get a new agent.

Did you?

I did, and I ended up doing the movie for what I wanted to do it for. But generally, I've been lucky. Everybody who has represented me has been really great. Agents are a lot like politicians. I was on a show about politics ("The West Wing") for a long time. Politicians are easy targets. They're easy to make fun of. A lot of people don't like them and there are a lot of them that are unbearable.

Same with agents. But in my experience, most agents believe in what they do. They want to help talent. They want talent to succeed. Although I had a lot of fun making fun of agents in this movie, the truth is, like most politicians, most agents take their jobs really seriously and are good at it.

Was the kimono scene your idea?

It was Mr. Jason Reitman's idea (laughs). We have a picture of us on the set—the wardrobe person is showing us the kimono and I'm looking at it like, "Whoa, pal, I don't know about this (laughs)." We actually had a moment where I said to Jason, "Am I really going to wear this kimono in the movie?" and he went, "Yeah, I think you are." I said, "All right, let's do it." I'm glad I did, because the biggest laugh every time I see the movie is when it's revealed that it's me in the kimono.

I was thinking about this. One of my favorite, though sad, moments at the Oscars every year is the "In memoriam" sequence (dedicated to film talents who died in the past year). I said to Jason, "In 60 years, 70 years, whatever it is, God

I've certainly reached that point where I must say, yeah, I'm definitely not a boy anymore'



bless when I've moved on to the great movie in the sky, if that kimono is in my 'In memoriam' portion (laughs), I will kill you."

What was it like wearing that kimono?

Like wearing an iron suit. You're like the Tin Woodsman in "The Wizard of Oz." They would just sort of tilt me against the wall. You can't take it off by yourself. It was very uncomfortable. It was very heavy. When my first set of really nice reviews came out for this, Jason wanted to buy me a kimono as a gift (laughs).

There's a funny line in the movie that is said a couple of times, that Aaron's character did it for the mortgage.

I love it. The Yuppie Nuremberg Defense, they call it: "I did it for the mortgage."

Can you tell us which films you did for the mortgage?

I think if you go to imdb.com and look at my filmography you can probably guess (laughs).

How was your experience appearing in a play ("A Few Good Men") in London?

I was there for six months, which really takes you off the market for a year. I'm still paying the effects of that but I'm glad I did. I was welcomed with open arms on every level—both the critics, who were fantastic to me, and the audiences. We were always number one among the straight drama plays.

I met (British Prime Minister) Tony Blair when he came to the rehearsal to say hello. It was just an amazing experience. But the agents went, "Oh, you're going to go work for free for six months, huh? Fantastic (laughs)."

Were you emotional when you returned to tape a special appearance in the final episode of "The West Wing"?

First of all, since you're all here, I thank you guys because, as you all remember, you were the first people to recognize "The West Wing." We have never forgotten that and the last thing I did when I left the stage was look at the four Emmys and that first Golden Globe in an area of the studio where all of the trophies are kept. That was the last thing I looked at. I walked out and that was it. It was sad but more than anything, there was just a great sense of what that show was at its height. The show has changed a lot in the years that I was not on it. I don't recognize a lot of it but it was good to be back at the end and sort of help put it to bed.

Didn't you write and direct a short film?

I did. I had big plans. What happened was, I had a lot of people interested in me as a director and a lot of really fun stuff was happening. But then I read the script for this pesky little pilot called "The West Wing" and that did it. It fulfilled me so much creatively that I didn't have anything left. It also left me exhausted in terms of the amount of time I had to commit to it. I am just now starting to get back into writer-director mode.

Back to the time when you were a party animal...

Party animal (laughs). She's (the reporter) throwing down the party animal card.

Well, you were talking about just going from one project to another and living a carefree life. Are you a man now?

Wow. There was probably a series of events. I don't think there was any one thing. I am not doing an Oprah (Winfrey) confessional but getting sober was a big thing for me. It has been 16 years now that I have been sober. Getting married, having children. That informs who you are, as a man and then, just good old-fashioned age. Good old-fashioned time on the planet dealing with problems, making mistakes. I think a combination of those things probably got me to the point where I go "Yeah, I'm definitely not a boy anymore."

E-mail the columnist at rwnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

'Most Downloaded Woman'

CINDY MARGOLIS, the "Most Downloaded Woman" on the internet, is following up her win on the TV reality show "Celebrity Cooking Showdown" with a career first—posing nude for Playboy. The mother of three told The Associated Press that she finally agreed to pose for the magazine when they called on her 40th birthday. She said, "Thank goodness for 'Desperate Housewives.' You're not dead just because you are married and have children."

'Most beautiful'

She's got that pregnant glow, but it's Angelina Jolie's humanitarian efforts that make her most radiant,

AP quoted People magazine by way of announcing that the "pillow-lipped actress" graces the cover of the mag's "100 Most Beautiful People" issue, on newsstands this weekend. It's her fourth time on the list, but first as cover girl.

RUSHES



FRANCINE Prieto



ANGELINA Jolie

Spanish version

Meanwhile, Jennifer Lopez is on the cover of People En Espanol's annual "50 Most Beautiful" issue, on newsstands tomorrow. The list includes Eva Longoria, Ricky Martin, Shakira, Jessica Alba and Eva Mendes. J Lo, 37, was also named one of People's 100 most beautiful people.



RYAN Seacrest



JENNIFER Lopez



TERI Hatcher



KEIRA Knightley



CINDY Margolis

World's sexiest

British actress Keira Knightley was voted the world's sexiest woman in a magazine poll on Thursday, beating model Keeley Hazell and Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson into second and third place, according to Reuters. The poll was conducted by British magazine FHM, which said it received two million votes. Angelina Jolie landed in fourth place. Reuters

Fainting pills

Francine Prieto swears she has stopped taking diet pills after she fainted on the set of one of her TV shows last week.

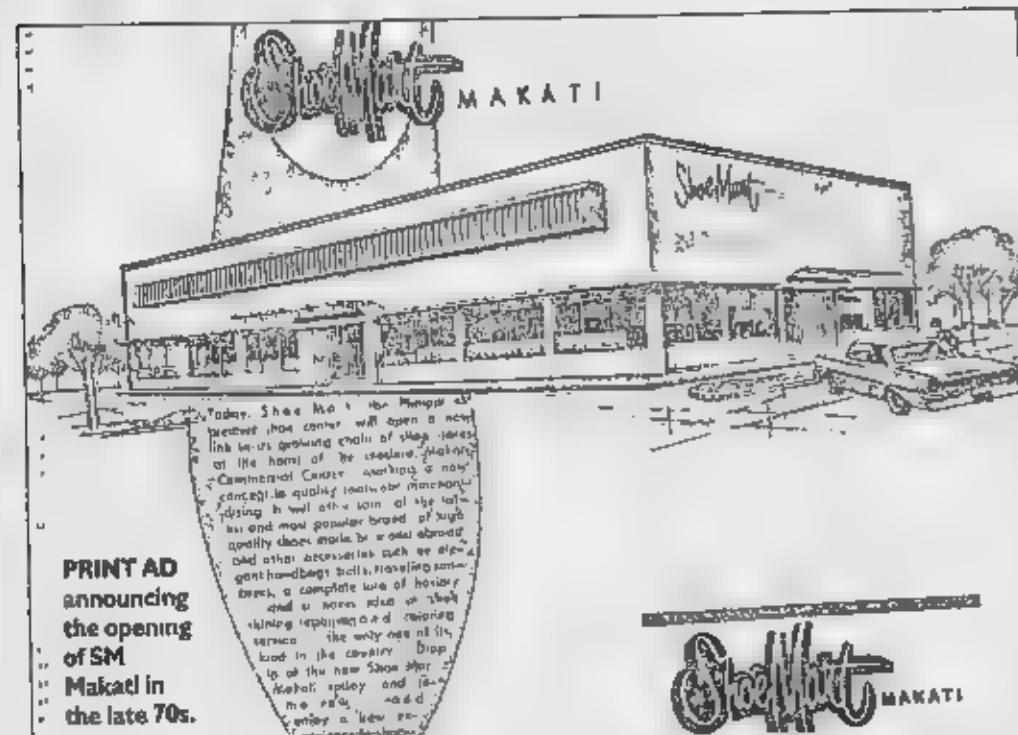
According to Francine's mom, the sexy actress lost 30 pounds since she started taking the pills in preparation for a big fashion show in June.

Feud on 'Idol'

AP also says "American Idol" host Ryan Seacrest told magazine he and judge Paula Abdul are not speaking to one another (Abdul calls reports of a feud "ridiculous"). Seacrest, 31, said his relationship with Abdul was "awkward." Abdul, 43, has a different take: "We are one funny dysfunctional family. There's nothing but love." AP

Tori, again!

Seacrest's rumored girlfriend, actress Teri Hatcher of "Desperate Housewives," suffered an eye injury when a light bulb exploded on the set of the ABC series. AP also reported again quoting People magazine. "I was taken to a wonderful eye doctor, and am now wearing a most glamorous eye patch over the right half of my face," said Hatcher, 41. AP



PRINT AD
announcing
the opening
of SM
Makati in
the late 70s.

Tracing Henry Sy's steps in selling - I

TAIPAN HENRY SY IS SET TO OPEN THE country's biggest mall in a few weeks. The Business Features does a countdown of the opening by looking back at one of the richest man in the world's early beginnings.

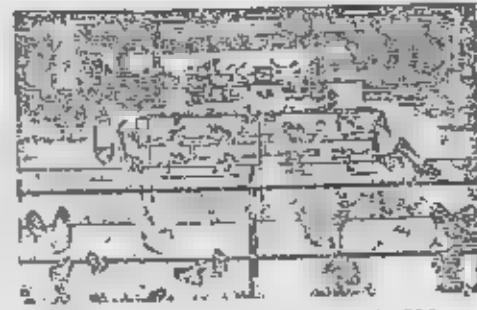
1959—Henry Sy Sr. opened the first Shoemart store along Rizal Avenue in downtown Manila. Sy conceptualized a chain of shoe stores, each characterized by a distinct merchandising layout never before attempted in the country.

1960s—The company expanded its shoe store chain. It was one of the pioneers in the new urban centers when it opened big ger shoe stores at the Makati Commercial Center in 1963 and Cubao in 1967.

1979—Shoemart marked its shift from a shoe store to a full line department store with SM Echague and later SM Makati in 1975. This was also the time Shoemart became known as SM Shoemart or simply SM, a name that has become synonymous to shopping.

1980s—SM positioned itself for growth, diversifying into the supermarket and appliance store business.

1985—Late 1985 marked the opening of its first shopping mall, SM in North Edsa.



HOW shoes used to be displayed in SM department stores.

"When we constructed our first mall in North Edsa in 1983, the Philippines was in the midst of a debt moratorium, drastic evaluation, and experiencing hyper inflation. The economy's decline was further aggravated by the assassination of Ninoy Aquino. Many bankers depicted our demise because Mr. Sy came from nowhere. He may have a few department stores and shoe stores, but he was not one of the financial heavyweights at that time."

Unaffected by criticism and armed with sheer determination and optimism, he persisted and opened in 1985 with our department store and a few tenants.

NAGA CITY—HOT OFF THE PRESS and launched in the Ayala Museum, Makati City last month, a coffee-table book entitled "Abaca Philippines" and written by a Bicolana, reveals untold uses of abaca plant like nutritional and cosmetic ones, aside from the multiple applications of its fiber as a raw material for various functional and decorative products.

The author, Lalaine Villafuerte Abonal, takes readers into a journey of excellent photography and easy-to-read narrative on abaca plant—from its origin, make-up and historical accounts to its end-products.

Supplying 89 percent of the world's total abaca requirement, the Philippines has the strongest natural fiber with the highest tensile strength, which is cultivated in 26 provinces in Bicol, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao.

The book, with a collection of 750 photographs in vibrant colors, was printed in Singapore and packed in 295 pages of glossy paper that capture the depths and hues of the subjects—from the photos of dark green abaca plantation to bright colors of abaca fabrics to earth tones of abaca furniture and fixtures.

Abonal, who earned a degree in Economics at the University of the Philippines and now residing in Pasadena, California, has compiled the dynamic and emerging uses of abaca not only for industrial uses but also as a breakthrough research that identified enzymes present in the plant that are ingredients in cosmetic and skin products and possess dietary value.

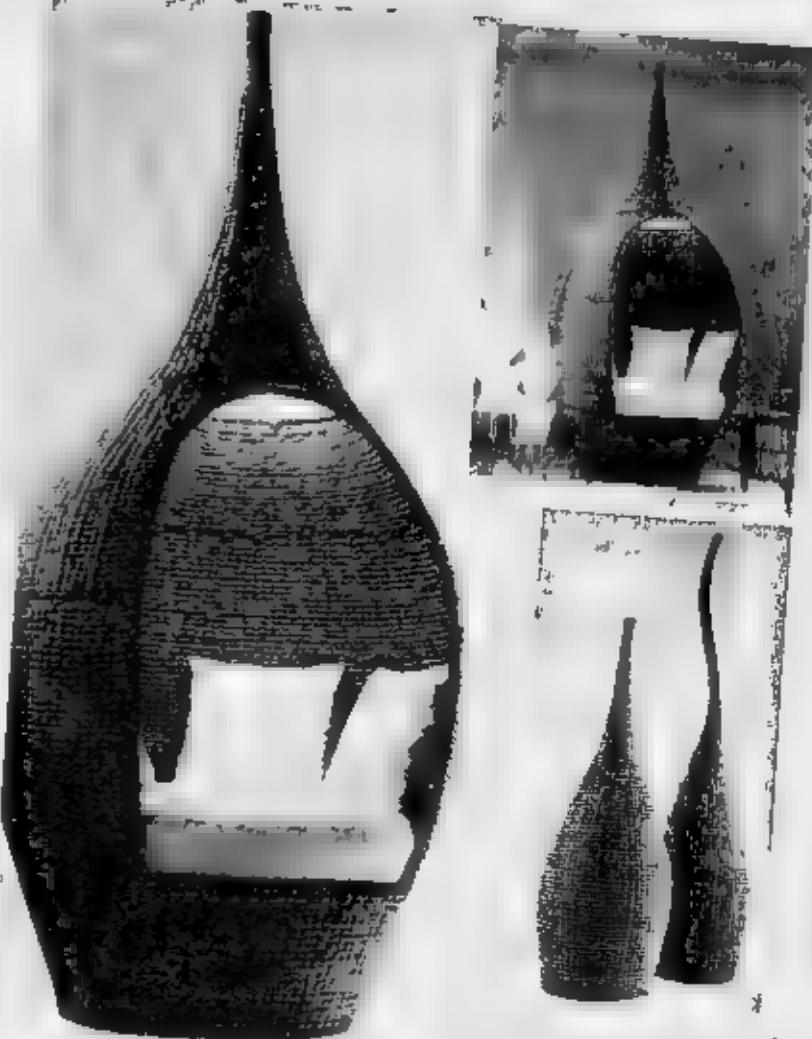
The author has also two previous titles to her name, which are: "101 Lessons of A Buying Agent of Foreign Companies" and "TI Outsourcing Opportunities in the Philippines".

She is a member of the board of Foreign Buyers Association of the Philippines, founder of the company Coconut Republic and president of eAsia Outreach & Marketing Services.

Abonal has 12 years of experience sourcing indigenous materials such as abaca, coconut, bamboo and capiz shell. Abaca Philippines has unraveled several other uses of abaca fiber commonly unnoticed, like its fabric rendition and combinations with other fabrics for dress creation like designs by known Filipiniana designer Patis Tesoro.

The abaca fabric collections of Abaca Philippines are interesting pieces that define the grace of abaca—rendered in an array of formal attires and haute couture.

The coffee-table book shows the elegance of abaca in furniture and fixtures—from settees to lounge chairs, from dividers to coffee tables, and from



IN FARTH tones, an abaca chair and two decorative giant jars made of hand-woven abaca—bacabac rope are cool, elegant eco-friendly pieces.

sofas to loveseats by designers that include An Arte Caffa Corp., Diretso, Locsin International, Designs Ligma and Far East Furniture Marketing Corp.

"With its distinctive characteristics, abaca is truly one of the most fascinating natural fibers in the world. It is a fiber with an assured future," Abonal writes.

She adds that the coffee-table book has been written in the hope that abaca users, present and prospective, may gain an insight into the nature of the abaca from the plant stage to the finished products.

Included in the coffee-table book is a list of companies and agencies involved in abaca promotions and product development in the Philippines.

Greens and grills at the mall

GREENS & GRILLS WILL BE ONE OF THE latest developments in Festival Supermall located at the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa. It follows a dining area cum garden concept with a spacious area for Al Fresco restaurants and a fully landscaped zone that will showcase and sell a variety of plants and flowers to those who have the hobby of growing foliage.

It will be for those who love to dine out and unwind while having a bottle of their favorite brew. It is also envisioned to become a horticulturist's paradise with its flower gardens and verdant greenery.

Festival Supermall is home to numerous food, retail and service shops and houses more prominent anchor stores like Shopwise Supercenter, Save More Supermarket, Robinson's Department Store and Handyman and Ace Hardware.

It also has a lifestyle home center called TREASURE TROVE, a Food Junction, an Amusements Zone (Pixie Forest and X-site) and a large area (Carousel Court) for holding exhibits and events.

Festival Supermall is located at the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

Promoting credit responsibility

CREDIT CARDS CARDS HAVE BECOME powerful and convenient tools to manage one's finances if used responsibly. The Credit Card Association of the Philippines, now on its 25th year, remains upbeat as far as the credit card industry and consumer awareness is concerned.

But just what is credit responsibility? Basically, it entails consumer maturity with regards to spending behavior and credit card use. A responsible cardholder borrows within one's means and pays when payment is due.

Moreover, credit responsibility also means being wary of possible fraudulent acts that can be committed against him. The public must realize that the cardholder also bears responsibility as the credit card company to protect the cardholder against theft and fraud. This is why aside from educating consumers on the advantages of maintaining good credit and providing them with security information against theft and fraud, CCAP is also working closely with the proper agencies, especially with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, for consumer protection. Thus the drive to strengthen Republic Act 8484 or the law against fraudulent use of credit cards to apprehend and penalize fraudsters.

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Lot 8 Blk 8 Guju Street,

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Minimum Bid Price: ₱ 1,023,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT

LA. 281 sqrs. F.A. 127 sqrs.

Lot 1 Blk 9, Guju Street,

Santolan Subdivision

Minimum Bid Price: ₱ 1,023,000.00

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LA. 30,50 sqrs. F.A. 68 sqrs.

Lot 11-D Blk 8, Guju St.

Santolan Subdivision

Minimum Bid Price: ₱ 202,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT

LA. 24,20 sqrs. F.A. 48 sqrs.

Lot 11-F Blk 8, Guju St.

Santolan Subdivision

Minimum Bid Price: ₱ 2,059,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT

LA. 120 sqrs. F.A. 85 sqrs.

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Minimum Bid Price: ₱ 1,823,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT

LA. 83 sqrs. F.A. 52 sqrs.

Lot 101 Santan St., Comesa

Townhomes, Taguig City

Minimum Bid Price: ₱ 322,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT

LA. 83 sqrs. F.A. 52 sqrs.

Lot 101 Santan St., Comesa

Townhomes, Taguig City

Minimum Bid Price: ₱ 322,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT

LA. 83 sqrs. F.A. 52 sqrs.

Lot 101 Santan St., Comesa

Townhomes, Taguig City

Minimum Bid Price: ₱ 322,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT

LA. 83 sqrs. F.A. 52 sqrs.

Lot 101 Santan St., Comesa

Townhomes, Taguig City

Minimum Bid Price: ₱ 322,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT

LA. 83 sqrs. F.A. 52 sqrs.

Lot 101 Santan St., Comesa

Townhomes, Taguig City

Minimum Bid Price: ₱ 322,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT

LA. 83 sqrs. F.A. 52 sqrs.

Lot 101 Santan St., Comesa

Townhomes, Taguig City

Minimum Bid Price: ₱ 322,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT

LA. 83 sqrs. F.A. 52 sqrs.

Lot 101 Santan St., Comesa

Townhomes, Taguig City

Minimum Bid Price: ₱ 322,000.00

LOT 18 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT

LA. 83 sqrs. F.A. 52 sqrs.

Lot 101 Santan St., Comesa

Townhomes, Taguig City

Minimum Bid Price: ₱ 322,000.00

LOT 19 - VACANT LOT

LA. 373 sqrs.

(Lot 25-3) Blk 1177 F. Vizcaya

Hills Subd.

Minimum Bid Price: ₱ 714,000.00



MARIO Silos

THE COUNTRY'S HEALTH Maintenance Organization (HMO) industry faces a problem—it has no image, at least not the kind it deserves to have.

There is very scant information on how it works.

To a lot of people, the HMO industry has become more of a commercial enterprise instead of one aimed at providing health care.

The Health Maintenance Organization Act of 2004 states, an HMO is an "organized system of managing and assuring health care services in a defined geographical area, a pre-agreed set of basic and supplemental health maintenance and treatment services, and has an enrolled group of individuals paying a fixed periodic fee." Moreover, HMO, being a "Managed Care," as described by the similar bill, is "a system of health care delivery that influences utilization and cost of services and measures performance with a goal to deliver quality and cost-effective health care."

IntelliCare, an HMO that claims to be trying to do what the law asks for, has been in the business for 10 years now.

Why would the country's top corporations acquire their services? Human resource department heads, company presidents and other decision-makers first look at reputations when deciding on HMO companies. After all, having an HMO is now widely considered a crucial part in the maintenance of human resources.

IntelliCare claims it is ranked as one of the top three HMOs in the country.

The decision to establish an HMO had a lot to do with a calling. IntelliCare president, Mario Silos says, "You can make a lot of money out of other businesses that don't have real value to other people. But the founding group of this company wanted to make a difference, to be remembered that we had a contribution to society; that we affected people positively and in the process made a decent return to our stockholders."

It wasn't a yellow brick road at the start for IntelliCare. Like most businesses in Asia, they were challenged with the major financial debacle in 1997 when companies faced restructuring, downsizing and even closure.

The economic landscape was in bad shape. IntelliCare stuck by the value of its rates or premiums pre-meltdown. They did not succumb to the market penetration strategy that in order to gain ground, one must be prepared to lose first. The result? They grew at 30 percent per annum consistently.

They did not compromise on the basis of their actuarial assumptions or on the basis of service excellence. "The more you compromise, the more you fall into a hole," Silos asserts. They were a toddler by industry standards and thus hard-put to build a reputation. Anyone knows one doesn't build a good business reputation overnight. It usually takes a remarkable amount of effort, hard work and perseverance.

They did not go for big name clients at once. It was hard, after all.

In its younger days, in-house sales were more significant than broker-generated sales. But IntelliCare eventually turned the tide. Past the economic meltdown and growing consistently, brokers started to bring in companies such as Dell, Coca-Cola and other major accounts for bidding.

The company realizes that the initial 10 years was just spent to lay the foundation, to establish a reputation and surpass a critical mass base required for long-term stability. In the next 10 years the firm aims to achieve market leadership both in quantity and quality of service.

And the company knows they have to innovate to continue into the next decade.

They are now looking into tapping new markets, those which do not yet have the comfort and convenience of having their own HMO to give them the security of health because of financial limitations.

In the future, the company wants to serve the millions in the nation's workforce. IntelliCare knows that the concept of the HMO has not yet fully developed and that it still has more than enough room for growth. Health care after all, is a function of demography and the Filipino population is definitely maturing.

One of its notable innovations is the recently launched Pamilya Care program designed for OFWs and the families they leave behind here.

Silos asserts that HMOs should be a bridge to a point where health services should be accessible and affordable to all.

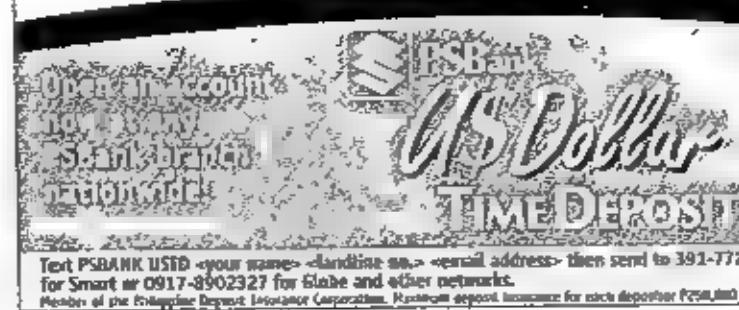
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'The more you compromise, the more you fall into a hole'

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KING JAMES AUCTION CALENDAR

ON-SITE AUCTION

SITE: SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR INDUSTRIAL, BRGY. BALIBARAN, MALINTA, VALENZUELA CITY M.M. (BESIDE SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR PARISH CHURCH)
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES: MAY 1-2, 2006 9:00AM-5:00PM

AUCTION DATE: MAY 3, 2006 (WED) @ 10:30 AM

CONSISTING OF GENERATORS, DRY TYPE TRANSFORMERS 500KVA, BOILERS, FILTER PRESS, TANKERS, CYLINDERS, PANEL BOARDS, WINCH, GATE/CHECK VALVES, ENGINES, INDUCTION MOTORS, TOLEDO SCALE, INDUSTRIAL PANS, RECTIFIER, RD ICE MAKER, WHEEL BALANCING EQUIPMENT ASSORTED, SCRAP METALS, ETC. REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P20,000

ON-SITE AUCTION

SITE: UNISOL INDUSTRIES AND MANUFACTURING CORP., BLDG. MAKILING, CALAMBA, LAGUNA (NEAR YAZAKI-TORRES)
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES: MAY 3-4, 2006 9:00AM-5:00PM

AUCTION DATE: MAY 5, 2006 (FRI) @ 10:30 AM

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PULILAN WAREHOUSE AUCTION

LOCATION: 333 OLD NATIONAL HIGHWAY, STO. CRISTO, PULILAN, BULACAN

REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES: MAY 5-6, 2006 9:00AM-5:00PM

AUCTION DATE: MAY 7, 2006 (SUN) @ 10:30 AM

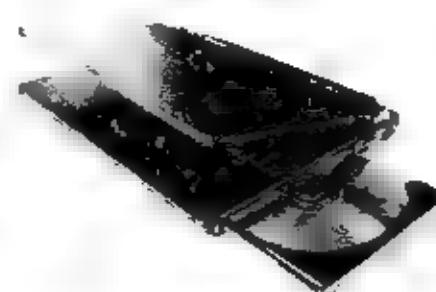
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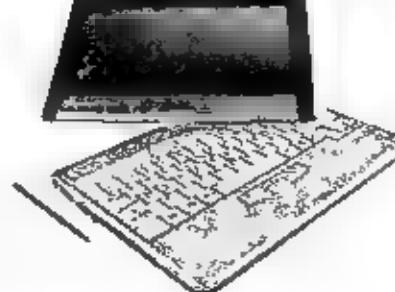
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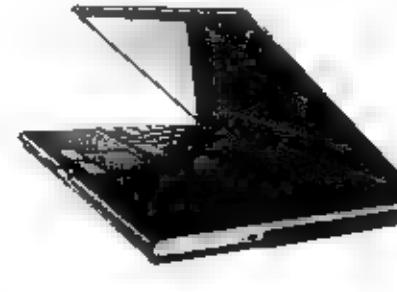
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LifeBook P7010

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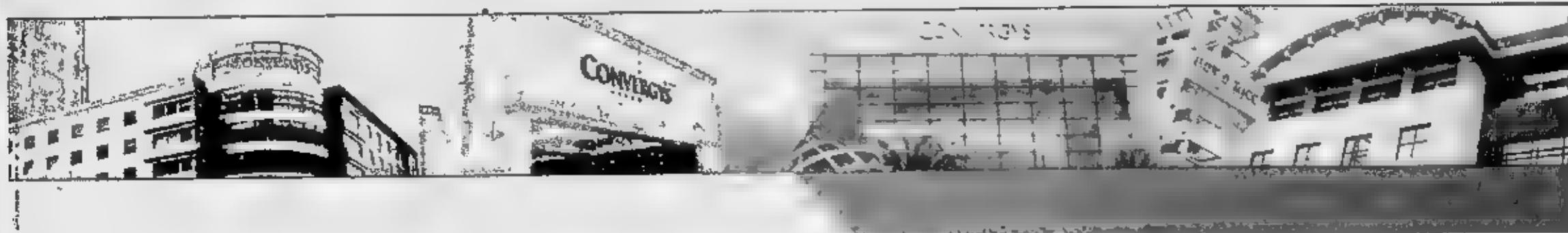
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CONVERGYS

Outthinking Outdoing



CONVERGYS CORPORATION MAINTAINS INDUSTRY LEAD WITH CUSTOMER CARE PROGRAMS

The world's largest outsourced customer care company has become one of the world's most awarded global firms. Convergys Corporation (NYSE: CVG) was recently recognized as one of America's Most Admired Companies for the sixth consecutive year by Fortune Magazine. Convergys also just received the Philippine Export Processing Zone Authority's award as a Most Outstanding Employer. Accolades aside, the company believes in focusing on what makes it truly great: its people.

From its first hires on March 15, 2003, Convergys has grown from 800 employees to nearly 8,000 professionals in the Philippines alone, after just three years of operations. Its network of contact centers include facilities in Makati, Quezon City, Ortigas Center, Alabang, Cebu City, and a recruitment center in U-Belt, Manila, the only off-site recruitment facility of its kind in the industry.

"The Philippines plays a very important role in our overall global strategy," stated Convergys Executive Vice President, Clint Streit, during a recent visit to Manila. "We continue to plan for our expansion for the remainder of this year and the next. In fact, we will soon inaugurate our main office for the Philippines along Ayala Avenue in Makati City."

As with all its global offices, Convergys entrusts its key leadership positions to the country's nationals. Convergys provides these highly talented individuals with the same opportunities as their international counterparts. For example, the Convergys Vice President and Country Manager for the Philippines is Marife Zamora, who accepted the Philippine Export Processing Zone Authority's award along with Streit at a ceremony at Malacanang Palace.



(R-L) President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with Convergys Executive Vice President, Clint Streit, Country Manager, Marife Zamora and Assets Director, Jojo Lloren.

Convergys offers excellent skills development and training programs for its employees, opportunities for career development, and personal growth that other outsourcing companies are hard pressed to duplicate. Employees are not merely trained for regular day-to-day operations but inculcate the company's values of unparalleled client satisfaction, teamwork, respect for the individual, diversity, shareholder's trust, corporate citizenship, and integrity.

From Team Leader Development Training to the Management Development Program, Convergys invests heavily in seminars, workshops, and various other programs that will help an individual fully realize his or her potential. Convergys maintains a Personal Development Center website for team leaders, operations managers, and top executives to access additional training materials anywhere, anytime. The Convergys CI (Continuous Improvement) Portal fosters continuous improvement among employees as they are able to share innovations throughout the organization for transforming the business positively—for the company and for its clients.

Managers also embark on the Business Consulting Learning Series to better understand the client's business and become proactive consultants. Meantime, employees get the first chance to apply for openings within the company and move their careers forward through the Building from Within Program.

To ensure that Convergys trainers meet international quality standards, trainers are sent to the US and other countries for technology transfer. Since 2003, CVG has invested more than P10M to send its Filipino trainers to the US, Canada and India for skills transfer. Filipino national Malu Roa began as a manager in Convergys but today works as Director for Global Communication and Culture Training. The former Cebu-based English teacher now works from Convergys' Jacksonville, Florida office but also flies to other Convergys locations across the globe to train others in effective cross-cultural communication skills.

Convergys agents service customers around the world in various industries: telecommunications, retail, financial services, healthcare, and technology. The work environment is conducive to professional, efficient service with the latest in state-of-the-art automated customer care technologies.

Facilities also include an employee lounge, cyber desk area, and 24-hour clinic with doctor support and immediate ambulance assistance. Employees also receive first aid and self-defense training. Some centers also offer free parking for employees and 24/7 concessionaires in the building such as coffee shops and restaurants. Each facility also has an Incident Command Team and Emergency Management Team ready to assist employees in times of crisis and emergencies. In cases of transportation problems from strikes, typhoons, or floods, Convergys also extends transportation assistance service.

Not to forget the fun part of working in Convergys, an Employee Engagement Team helps create camaraderie and fun activities. Theme-based decorations may appear in workstations and family days, holidays, and monthly celebrations are commemorated.

Building employee relations is undertaken through recognition programs and venues that keep communication lines open across the organization. In the Employee Pulse and Employee Commitment Surveys undertaken in all Convergys locations worldwide, Convergys employees in the Philippines scored the highest employee satisfaction rate.

Convergys has made Focus Group Discussions among employees and even clients a regular affair to gather feedback and address other issues. These candid roundtable discussions have led to improving communication at different levels of the organization.

Convergys also has the Power of One Recognition Program where specially designed cards that feature the company's seven values are exchanged among peers and their managers. A part of the card is given to the recipient's manager and further strengthens relations between employees and their supervisors. The cards are tracked, and recognition is given to those who use and receive recognition through the program. Over 11,000 Power of One cards have been exchanged since the program began in 2003.

The Program Performance Management 100 features a score card and agent dashboard where improvements in performance are rewarded.

The CI Yahoo! Awards recognize the support and dedication of employees to Convergys' culture of Continuous Improvement.

Convergys Philippines also has the General Manager's Award to recognize professional performance, commitment, and integrity to the work ahead. Since 2003, there have been 30 recipients of this award.

Employee gatherings through the Quarterly Linkage Call, the Leaders Summit, and the Team Leader Town Hall helps communicate company results, initiatives, and strategy to various employee sectors. Aside from the corporate-wide intranet with company news and information, Convergys has electronic publications plus a Philippine newsletter, Synergy.

Convergys is currently interviewing applicants at all of its Philippine contact centers as well as its recruitment center located in Manila's University Belt. Persons interested in employment with Convergys should call 8577760 or email their resumes to philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banah-Formoso

SMS feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
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Budding Leonardos and Amorsolos

KIDS HAVE A PECULIAR WAY of seeing that which is fresh and unadulterated. In their artistic hands, the drab and predictable world becomes surprising and adventurous.

The unique colors and ingenious lines of

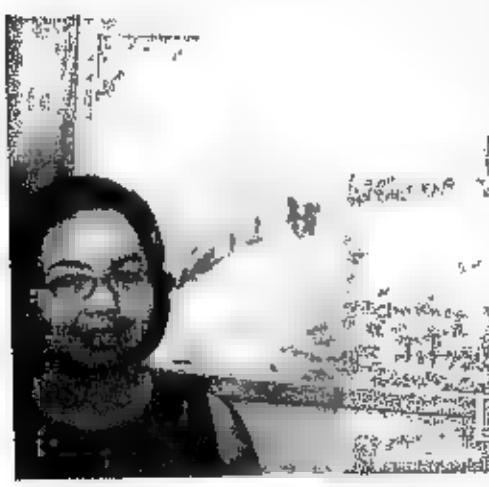
artistic children are on display in "As Our Children See It: Art from the Eyes, Hearts, and Hands of Children," ongoing until May 14, Mother's Day, at Le Soufflé restaurant at Rockwell.

The show is the brainchild of Le Soufflé chef Jessie Sincioco and Sheila Ramos, whose

BUDDING/C2



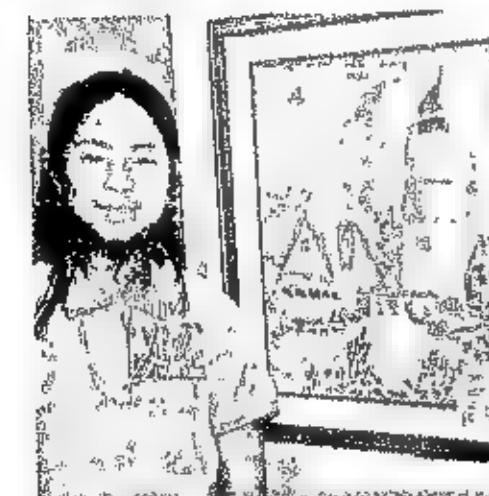
COOL artists Noah, Liam and Lucas Ramos



TIFFANY UY



NICOLE Soriano



KIM Go



JUSTINE Amante



CHENOAH Jorge



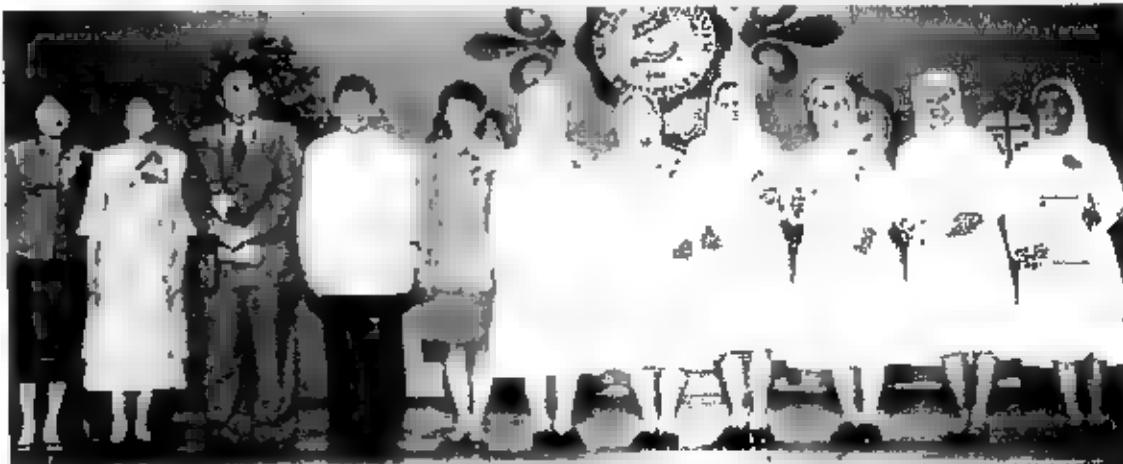
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**MARKS &
SPENCER**

C2

A NEW SPIN ON CLASSIC FASHION

THE FORMER St. Paul College of Quezon City, now granted university status, is part of the five-member St. Paul University System.



ST. PAUL received its University System status in 2004. Present were Dr. Catherine Castañeda, CHED-OPS director; Dr. Judith Bunye, president, Harris Memorial School; Dr. Roger Perez, CHED executive director; Dr. Nilo Rosas, CHED-SPUS evaluation committee; Dr. Ma. Cristina Padolina, CHED commissioner; Sr. Mary Magdalene Torres, SPC-provincial superior, and presidents of the SPUS constituent units—Sr. Teresita Bayona, SPC-Surigao; Sr. Remy Angela Junio, SPC-Tuguegarao and SPU system chancellor; Sr. Suze Hilaria Bautista, SPC-Manila; Sr. Carolina Agravante, SPC-Iloilo; and Sr. Nilda Masirag, SPC-Dumaguete

60 years of first-class education

EVERY HIGH-SCHOOL SENIOR must know that the best college education can only come from a reputable university. But there is an even better option: a university system, a network of many schools working in partnership with one another toward improved delivery of services, higher academic standards and more capable college graduates.

St. Paul University QC (SPUQC), headed by its president Sr. Nuntha Lucilla Baldado, SPC, is one of the most respected academic institutions in the country, now marking its 60th year after its inception as St. Paul College of Quezon City.

Together with the other member schools of the university system, it continually strengthens its Catholic character, serving the Church and society by being an outstanding leader of transformation.

Aside from SPUQC, the other Paulinian schools comprising the university system are St. Paul University Philippines in Tuguegarao City, the mother university, St. Paul University in Dumaguete,

St. Paul University in Boilo, St. Paul University Manila and St. Paul University in Surigao.

St. Paul University System recently celebrated its second anniversary with the theme "Sharing in the Paulinian Identity."

It must be noted that a college or university may be made part of a university system only if at least 50 percent of its tertiary program offerings have Level II accreditation by the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities.

SPUQC has Level III accreditation for all its programs under the College of Liberal Arts and Commerce—proof that the school meets accepted quality standards for education.

So what are the advantages of studying in a university system? Its complementary, system-wide policies and procedures offer a range of benefits, enabling the fulfillment of bigger goals, such as the following:

Faculty sharing

Sr. Lucilla points out that this is one way in which resources are

shared between member schools of a university system. Simply put, faculty sharing means a teacher from one member school can also teach in another. The idea is for a teacher or professor to instill the same set of skills, knowledge and competencies in a broader range of students across the different member schools.

"This works perfectly for us because St. Paul University teachers are all highly trained and competent," Sr. Lucilla explains.

Program sharing

A program owned by one campus can be offered in another campus by virtue of the program sharing agreement among the SPU System members. Example, SPUUP is currently authorized to offer an MA in Education major in Guidance and Counseling. However, enrollees may take the course at the extension classes held at SPUQC.

Easy cross-enrollment

Students may easily cross-enroll between members of the university system. As such, a paraprofessional subject taken in one member school is easily credited in another so that the cross-enrollee does not have to take the subject again in her new school to complete her course requirements.

Also, according to Sr. Lucilla, the cross-enrollee will have no problem adjusting to the new environment because the educational standards and systems are similar. Even school policies complement each other. Because of the faculty sharing system, students also become familiar with faces of teachers from other schools, making cross-enrollment a more pleasant experience.

In the case of St. Paul University System, it also helps that all six universities have uniformly clean, well-maintained and safe surroundings conducive to learning.

Strengthened partnerships with other institutions

The schools have tie-ups with other academic institutions both here and abroad for purposes such as further training for its

graduates and the like. On the drawing board is a bridging program with two colleges in Canada, geared toward providing advanced training to nursing graduates to equip them with skills and competencies required for overseas jobs.

These collaborative efforts are definitely beneficial to students. Combine this with the schools' modern facilities and up-to-date curriculum and you have the perfect venue for the intellectual, social, moral and spiritual development of young Filipinos.

Autonomous status

St. Paul University Quezon City was also granted autonomous status by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and an ISO 9001:2000 certification. The ISO 9001:2000 is an international quality standard awarded by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to any organization for the efficiency of its operations.

"However, we will not rest on our laurels," Sr. Lucilla says. "As

a university system, we are given opportunities to improve our curriculum, instruction, research projects, community services and other resources. We are very much committed to maximizing these opportunities in order to continue providing quality education to our students."

In the local academic community, St. Paul University System offers excellent programs in Nursing (proven by number of graduates who pass the board yearly), Mass Communications and Hotel and Restaurant Management (HRM), among others.

The Quezon City campus, in fact, continues to break new ground in Paulinian education. In 2004, the all-girl college campus added the pre-school department, open to both boys and girls, followed by the elementary department in 2005. For school year 2006-2007, it will finally open its doors to male college applicants for its Nursing and HRM programs to enable more young people to benefit from its quality of education.



EDUARDO, Bea, Abigail and Estelita Dy with Le Soufflé chef Jessie Sindoco



AS THE BUDDING artists look on, guests of honor Virgie Ramos and Socorro Ramos cut the ribbon to open the exhibit ongoing at Le Soufflé at the Rockwell clubhouse.

Budding Leonardos and Amorsolos

From page C1

three sons are among the exhibiting young artists. "Our children, nieces and nephews love drawing," said Ramos, "so we thought of this exhibit to provide a venue to display and share their art."

Along the way, the organizers invited other kid-artists to join the exhibit. The result is a nearly sold-out show, and the not-too-surprising revelation that kids paint the darnest things.

Here's a rundown of our budding Leonardos and Amorsolos:

Liam Ramos ("Froggy"), Noah Ramos ("The Good and Great Caterpillar"), Lucas Ramos ("A Zebra in the Meadow"), Andrea Soriano ("My Favorite Pet"), Nicole Soriano ("Purple House and Orange Palm"), Bea Gomez ("Flowers"), Kelsea Nicolas ("The Animal Farm"), AJ Pineda ("Mountain Site"), Joaquin Amante ("Sunset"), Juhana Amante ("Point of View"), Justine Amante ("Serendipity"), Tiffany Uy ("Tweaked Chair"), Mikey Lincaoco ("Unexplainable"), Danielle Lincaoco ("My Secret Garden"), Myka Umali ("Under the Sea"). The other kiddie artists are Meggie Cheock, Robilyn Dychiao and Katie and Kim Go.



JOAQUIN Amante



KATIE Go



AJ Pineda



ODETTE, Myka and Ley Umali

PHOTOS: RUDY ESPERAS

Serve Mom a watch special



WHY NOT completely spoil your mother for once and return some of the care and love she has given you? You won't be alone in your mission—Swatch is here to help. Save your words for once by treating her to a lovely dinner and giving her a present with the Swatch Mother's Day Special at Le Saucy 4 Rockwell.

"It's a once-a-year treat for Mom!" says Le Soufflé chef and Swatch user Jessie Sincicco of the seven-course menu priced at \$1,000++. And the best part, of course, is a scrumptious dessert: a Swatch surprise of a 20 percent-discount on any Swatch purchased from the "Swatch

Loves Mom corner" at Le Soufflé
and a raffle of Swatch watches!

It goes without saying that there is a Swatch Mother's Day Special watch again this year.

And for the first time, it is a Skin watch. Beige-colored leather, chrome steel, and a shimmering golden dial with a beautiful stylized flower motif. A creation that is as slim as a rose leaf, set with several amber-colored crystals and comes in exquisite special packaging in the form of a tea-light candle holder. A Swatch perfect for mothers for they deserve only the very best.

As any restaurant will tell

you, Mother's Day is the biggest holiday next to Valentine's Day. It's always a full house for lunch and dinner on Mother's Day, at tests Sincioco, so make your reservations now! Call Le Soufflé at 4502993.

Swatch is available in Swatch stores located in Gionetta 4 Ay.

ala Center Makati and SM Megamall Building B; and Gift Gate outlets in Glorietta, SM Megamall, SM Manila, Alabang Town Center, Robinsons Place Ermita, Ali Mall, Quezon Avenue, Greenhills. Swatch is exclusively distributed by Gift Gate Inc.

Modern intimates for the woman of today

The modern woman exudes confidence and passion in every aspect of her life. She knows how to work her way up to achieve career success, yet never loses her focus on what matters most at the end of the day.

For today's women who lead busy yet fulfilling lives, Playtex from Sera Lee Direct Selling Philippines Inc., one of the country's leading direct selling companies, introduces its line of stylish yet high-quality brassieres designed to give women the confidence and comfort they need as they face everyday challenges in life.

everyday challenges in life.
For the corporate woman who's driven to get things done **Plytex Cami Bra** with Underwire is a versatile bandeau-style bra with underwire for shaping and full support, and detachable straps that you can wear as a regular bra, crisscross halter, one-strap or no straps. Its lace front spells perfection when worn under sheer tops or even under jackets and blazers. Available in sizes 32A/B to 36A/B in colors flesh and black.

Wear any corporate outfit that catches your fancy with Playtex Five-Way Bra, which lets you wear it in five lovely ways — the regular two-straps, strapless, halter racerback, or one-strap. Made with comfortable, non-slip elastics, its underwire firmly holds and supports your bosoms even without the straps. Its smooth liberill cups have inner cotton fabric for extreme comfort while its luxurious lace covers the entire front for a look of formal elegance. Available

front for a look of feminine elegance. Available in sizes 32A to 36B in colors flesh and black.

During power lunches with the bosses, doza with sassiness while getting the support you need underneath with **Playtex Heavenly Bodies**, with underwire that gives your bosom good shape and support, and adjustable straps that provide maximum comfort. This mesh bra is slightly padded for enhanced shaping and has cotton lining for a cool and comfortable feeling. Available in sizes 32A/B

and comfortable feeling. Available in sizes 32A/B to 36A/B. In color brown with beige trimming.

Be at your sexiest during cocktails with **Playtex Simply Gorgeous**, an underwired bra designed with lush romantic stretch lace all over the cups and side panels, and has lightly padded cups that give just the right lift and firmness to your bosom. It also has soft inner cotton fabric for a comfy fit while its front closure makes it so convenient to wear. Available in sizes 32A/B to 36A/B in color fles-

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seamless bra that complements your wardrobe
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shapelier outline under body-fit clothes, and create
the cleavage that you desire. With its underwires,
smooth cup up those breasts. Available in sizes 32-36.

gently push up your breasts. Available in sizes 32A-36A/B in color flesh.

During family outings, look and feel good in Playtex Side Sensation, which has striped and back panel that provide extra smoothness to your skin. Its seamless soft cup offers full support while its soft inner cotton fabric delivers the comfort you need in every move. Available in sizes 32A-36A/B in color flesh.

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Timeless Form, the classic, full-figure and

Plavtex Form, the classic, non-rigid and support M-frame bra which has wide panels, additional support and cotton lining that leave cool, comfy feeling. Its floral lace also has shiny satin and accented with ribbonette at the center lets you feel so feminine and sexy. Available in 34A/B/C to 36A/B/C, 38B/C and 40B/C in color F.

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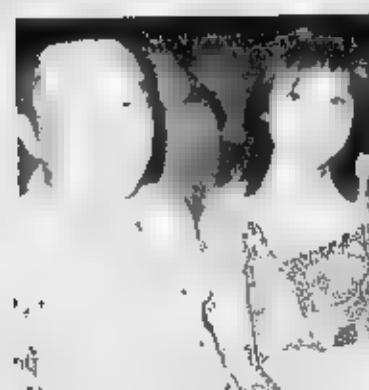
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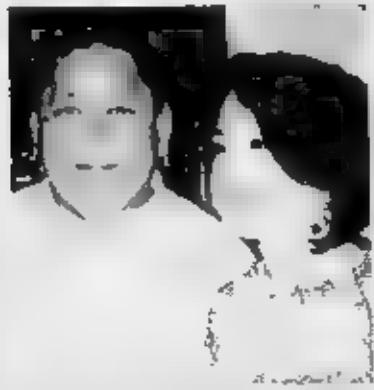
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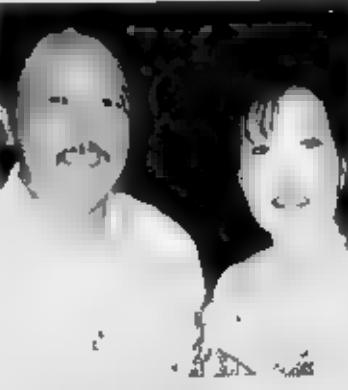
EDDIE Boy and Dorie Ledesma



CEBU City Mayor Tommy Osmeña and wife Margot Vargas



LUCY Ponce and Bacolod's First Lady Elsa Leonardia



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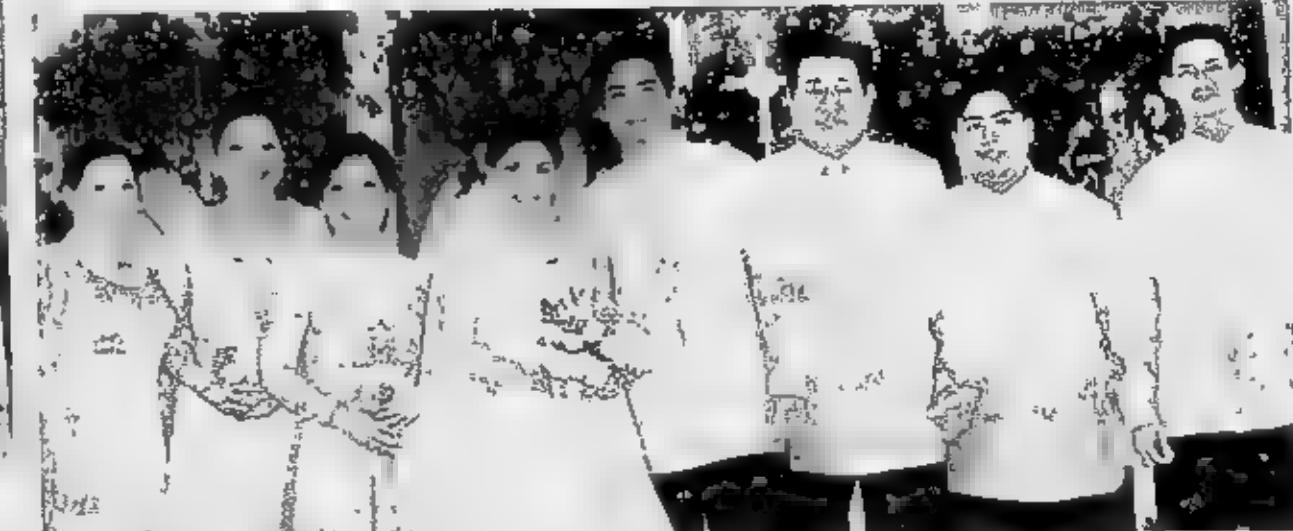
BOMBER and Miren Zayco



THE BEAUTIFUL Southern couple, Rowena Lopez and husband Neil Lizares



WITH THE BRIDE'S family: Nicole, Anna and Katrina Angeles, Dolores Lopez, Hernan Lopez Jr., MJ Lopez, Manny with Enzo Angeles



WITH THE GROOM'S family: Jennie Misa, Nellissa, Nanette, Boy Nilo, Niño Lizares and Bryan Misa

Romantic dream come true

Text by Maurice Arcache
Photos by Alex van Hagen

IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE BACOLOD'S ALTA sociedad saw a wedding of such a beautiful couple, *palanggas*.

After so many years of having eyes only for each other, the romantic dream of popular young, good-looking Talisay Vice Mayor Neil Lizares and gorgeous young lawyer Rowena Lopez finally came true. Both are achievers, brilliant in their fields of endeavor. They are civic leaders and assets to their community, *palanggas*.

In super romantic ceremonies at the century-old Queen of Peace Church in Talisay, Neil took for his bride Rowena who, by the way, was the only young lady included by the Philippine Tatler in its list of top Negrense personalities for our special issue on People You Should Know in Bacolod, dahlings.

Rowena looked like a radiant princess in her tres elegant Patrice Ramos-Diaz wedding gown and a family heirloom diamond choker. But she also looked every inch the modern bride, sure of herself and full of positive attitude, as she walked down the aisle.

Awesome

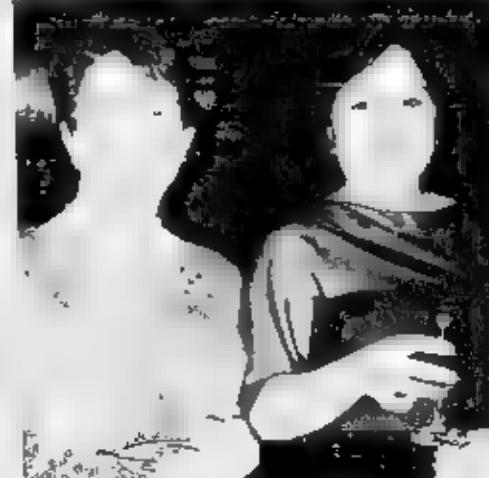
The tasteful and select list of awesome principal sponsors consisted of southern barons and baronesses Anna Dabao, Charrie Benedicto, Suzette Bantug, Ina Davis, Anne Mandriak, Tess Golez, Mila Ereneta Laurel, Lydia Gaston, Jose Marie Lopez, Citoy Lopez, Serge Osmeña, Amelio Lizares, Francis Jimenez, Raul Gamban, Rosendo Lopez and Arturo Ledesma.

Naturellement, Rowena's happy parents, Macoy Lopez and his wife Dolly L., nodded approvingly. Neil's mom and dad, Boy Nilo Lizares and wife Nanette Ereneta L., were quite overwhelmed that their first boy and *niño bonito* was getting married.

The chi-chi southern powdered set filled



BACOLOD society's working heiress Lucy Lizares Y. with sons Luigi, Andrei and Spitz Yungue



DELIA Granada and Annalou Trebol

International jetsetter Minnie Osmeña made a drop-dead entrance in a scarlet *terno*, adding flash to the local set. Debonair Citoy Lopez came with his ladylove, Baroness Eva Abesamis, who only had eyes for her adorable sugar baron.

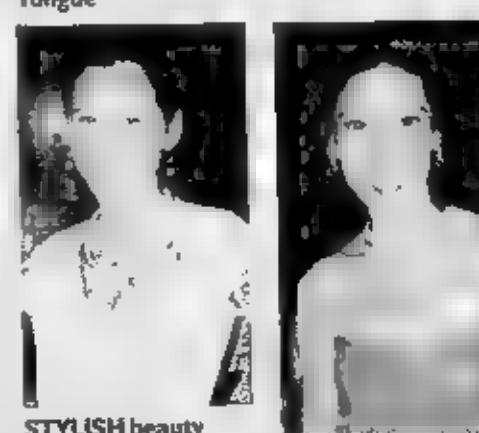
There were also loads of jetsetters who flew in from different parts of the United States, much to the delight of Bacolod society.

As the loving couple made their entrance with all eyes on them, the new Mr. and Ms. Neil Lizares were greeted with applause. The well-chosen dinner menu was excellently done by Fisher's fab chefs under the watchful eye of the hotel's main woman of substance and taste, Delia Granada, no less, *palanggas*.

The toasts were endless, as well as the clicking of glasses to request the couple to kiss. The couple obliged with delight. Then the couple's memorable moments were flashed on the screen to everyone's enjoyment.

To our beautiful couple, Neil and Rowena, you are definitely meant to live happily ever after.

Cheers, *palanggas*!



STYLISH beauty Framie Lopez Manotoc



ANNA Limcaoco

the lobby of the plush Fisher Hotel for the grand wedding reception of Bacolod's beautiful couple. As the social heavyweights made their entrance, cocktails and aperitifs were passed around the elegant La Pico Ballroom, which had a pergola decorated with *cadena de amor*, roses and lilies, beautifully whipped up by floral divas Tina Lacson and thoroughly modern Millie Kilayko, *palanggas*.



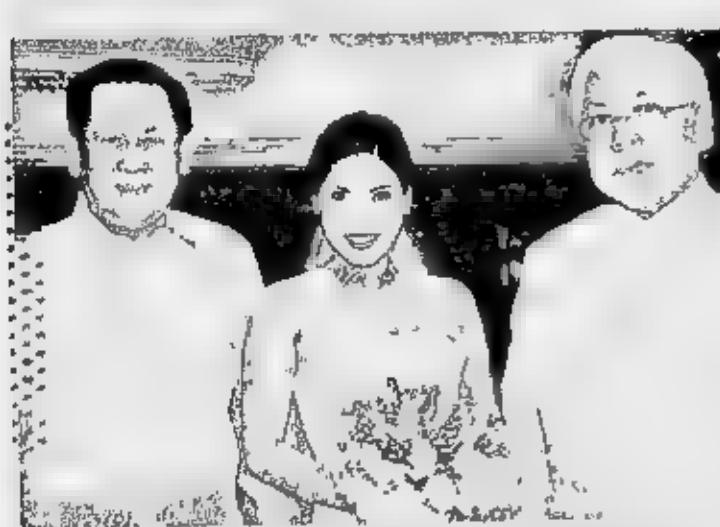
MINNIE Osmeña, Junie and Ginnie Lizares



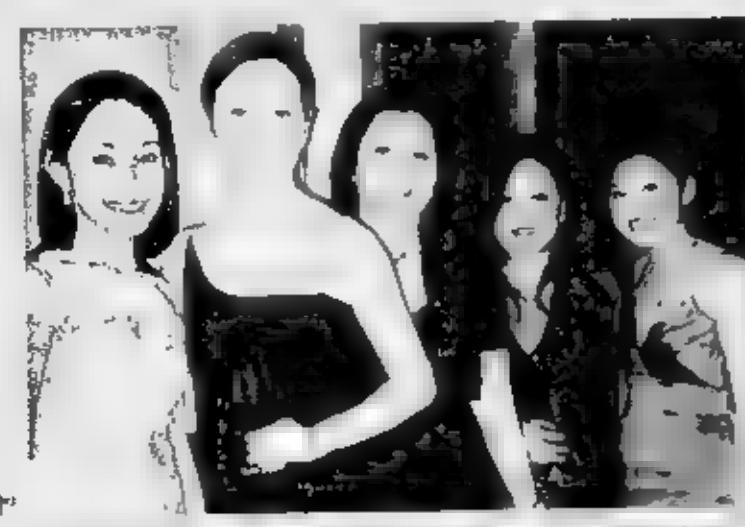
CONNIE Jimenez with her steady escort, Ramon Aquino



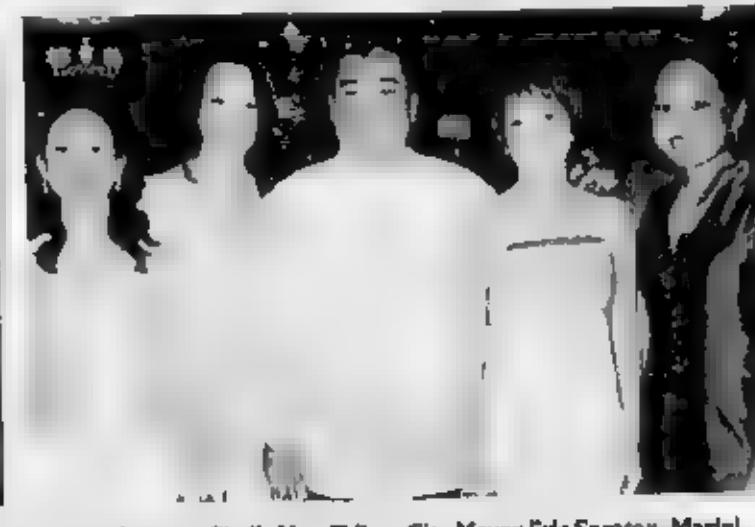
NANETTE and Nilo Boy Lizares



SEN. Serge Osmeña with the bride Rowena and her father Macoy Lopez



GEORGETTE Sanchez, Irene Caram, Honey Regalado, Carla Lacson and Jovie Dizon



GINNY Bantug, Sheila Yap, Talisay City Mayor Eric Saratan, Marle Bantug and Jenny Sarrosa

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006

Sunday LIFESTYLE

ID

Las Piñas parish is 30 years old

I LEARNED ABOUT OUR LADY OF FATIMA Parish in Philamlife Village, Las Piñas, in the '90s when Fr. Roy Rosales was parish priest (1990-1998). My friends and I attended fiesta Masses on October 13.

The church is beautiful. Though inside Philamlife Village, it covers 13 other villages in Las Piñas. One time, when I needed something urgently, I asked Our Lady of Fatima for help. The prayer was answered. In 1997, I joined other pilgrims to Fatima, Portugal, to say "thank you."

This year, the parish is marking its pearl anniversary, 30 years of evangelization and celebration of God's word. Fr. Gerard Mascariña, parish priest, leads the nine monthly Novena Masses. Different priests will celebrate each monthly Novena Mass.

On May 13, Nueva Ecija Bishop Mylo Vergara will officiate in the 6 p.m. concelebrated Mass celebrating the 89th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady of Fatima to children Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta. The Charismatic Community Music Ministry will sing in the Mass that will be preceded by a grand cenacle at 5 p.m.

The other Novena Masses will be held at 6 p.m., June 13, with Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD, as celebrant; July 13, Fr. Jerry Sabado, OCarm, Aug. 12, Fr. Gerard Diwa; and Sept. 13, Msgr. Sabino Vengo. A Novena Mayor will be held at 7 p.m., Oct. 6-14.

Bishop Socrates Villegas will celebrate the Parish Foundation Day Mass at 6 p.m., July 29. Fr. Ramon Elonaga, whose family lives in Philamlife Village, will say Mass on Oct. 14, *visperas* of the fiesta.

Former parish priests helped make the community grow. They are Msgr. Josefino Ramirez (1983-1986), Fr. Eugenio Castañeda (1986-1990), Fr. Rosales (1990-1998), Fr. Mario Sanchez (1998-2002); and Msgr. Manuel Sebastian (2002-2005).

Milestones

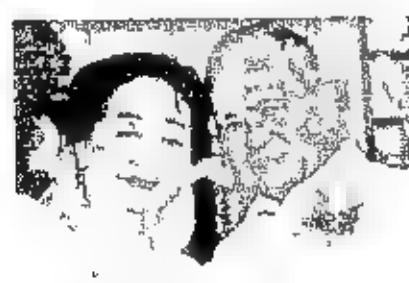
VIRAY DEBUT



Kristine Rochel Espiritu Viray, only child of Roland and Leonora Viray, will celebrate her 18th birthday on May 4 at the Centennial Hall of Manila Hotel. She is a sophomore student at De La Salle University-Manila taking up AB Literature.



AMBIDA DEBUT



Joan Leah Ambida Jr., daughter of Victor and Joan Leah Ambida of Calero, Batangas, celebrated her debut recently at the People's Quadrangle, Batangas City. She is a freshman Tourism student at Batangas State University. Her gown was designed by Dennis Macarandang.

YU DEBUT



Jaymee Cyrene de Jesus Yu, daughter of David and Cora Yu, celebrated recently her 18th birthday at the Visayas ballroom of Hotel Philippine Plaza. She wore a Donnie Delima gown in white silk organza with rhinestones and floral details.

MANGONON ANNIVERSARY

Brig. Gen. (ret) Abraham and Angela Mangonon celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently by renewing their vows at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, San Marcelino St., Manila. Reception followed at Villamor Air Base Officers Club.



VERGARA ATIENZA

Lorenz Vergara, son of Eugenia Millarez Valde Vergara, married recently Mae Atienza, daughter of Leonardo and Dolores Atienza, at San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City. Reception followed at El Grande Residencia Hotel and Resort in San Carlos, Lipa City. Wedding coordination was by Jun A. Magana.



TEJADA-INOCENCIO

Joefel Tejada, son of José and Felicitas Tejada, tied the knot recently with Fatima Inocencio, daughter of lawyer Gerardo and Rosalina Inocencio, at San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila. Reception was held at Tamayo's Café in Intramuros.

PURELY PERSONAL



Josephine Darang

The beautiful church covers 13 other villages in Las Piñas

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Kissing (first) cousins

DEAR EMILY,

I never thought I would be writing you about a secret I have been keeping for so long. My boyfriend and I were in our late 20s when we first saw each other. There was an undeniable attraction! But there was also fear.

Against all odds, he courted me and we became an item. Our relationship blossomed and grew strong despite adversity. We always managed to work things out, always believing love can conquer all.

After two years, he asked me to move in with him and I did. We've been under one roof for almost four years now.

The past 6 1/2 years of our life together has been the best.

For me it was heaven. I was oblivious of his sacrifices and suffering in his workplace. He said his officemates bombarded him with questions about his girlfriend, why they had not seen her visit his office; why he's not married yet at his age—he's a professional in his mid-30s.

His gender had also become an issue and he began to feel the pressure from friends and family.

One night, no longer able to take

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo



protect their wealth.

Is there any way we can be openly accepted by society? Our families are devout Catholics and telling them the truth would definitely hurt them.

What are the legal and moral implications of our situation?

MS SERENDIPITY

the years of constant pressure about our relationship and loaded questions about his gender, he decided to break up with me saying it was the only solution he could think of to ease the tension between him and his officemates, friends and family.

I was so shocked because I built my dreams, goals, and future with him.

Never in my wildest dreams did I think that, after all the years we've been together, he would think of being separated from me. We're still so much in love with each other but the thing that binds us together is what will keep us apart.

We are first cousins. We even have the same surname.

I know there are a number of rich families, Chinese and Muslims, that condone partnerships like ours to

Love can be described as blind, sublime, illegal, passionate to the hilt, all-consuming, nerve-wracking, insomnia-inducing, gut-wrenching. It is a now-you-feel-it-now-you-don't preoccupation a human being will be subjected to in his/her lifetime. It truly is the most troublesome of all emotions.... besides being the most fantabulous.

As you were saying...

History is filled with first cousins, uncle-niece unions among the royals and the very rich. Somehow marriages among them are accepted because of the immense wealth involved.

Your problem, dear girl, is you and your cousin probably don't belong in the "who cares" firmament and, therefore, could terribly be intimidated by the wagging tongues of

friends and family alike.

The only reason society frowns on first cousins marriages is the high probability of congenital defects such as mental retardation in the would-be children of those unions. Other than that, there are no moral or legal impediments in the horizon.

Six years of blissful partnership in this day and age is quite a feat.

Your boyfriend-slash-cousin should stand his ground and announce your relationship to the world if he truly loves you. The saying "love conquers all" is quite true. Just be honest and true to each other.

If your families feel you two are really serious, they'd have no recourse but to accede to your hearts' desire.

Be exceptionally strong together to withstand the turmoil. Like a raging river that will find ways to reach the ocean, your love should be able to hurdle all obstacles—regardless.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kakikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

Karakol in honor of Sto. Bambino de Aracoeli

THE PINAGPALANG KAMAY HEALING Ministry of Fr. Corsie S. Legaspi sponsors its annual Karakol in honor of Sto. Bambino de Aracoeli on May 1 in Binakayan, Cavite.

This devotion to the Sto. Bambino, Rome's counterpart to the Philippine Sto. Niño, was introduced in the Philippines by Fr. Corsie, well-known healing priest, who was captivated by the story behind the Bambino.

On May 1, the Karakol celebration will start with Holy Mass at the chapel of the Coming Home Retreat and Meditation Center in Binakayan, Cavite, after which a dancing procession will proceed to Freedom Park in Kawit, Cavite, where concluding ceremonies will be held. There will be awards for best costume and best dance group.

At sundown, the image of the Sto. Bambino, together with that of Mary, Health of the Sick, will return in formal procession to the Coming Home Retreat and Meditation Center, currently the shrine of both devotions.



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IN THE NEW season of his television show, Wright looks right at home in a BMO as on a camel and other modes of transportation.

A Wright honorable gentleman

STORY ON PAGE E2

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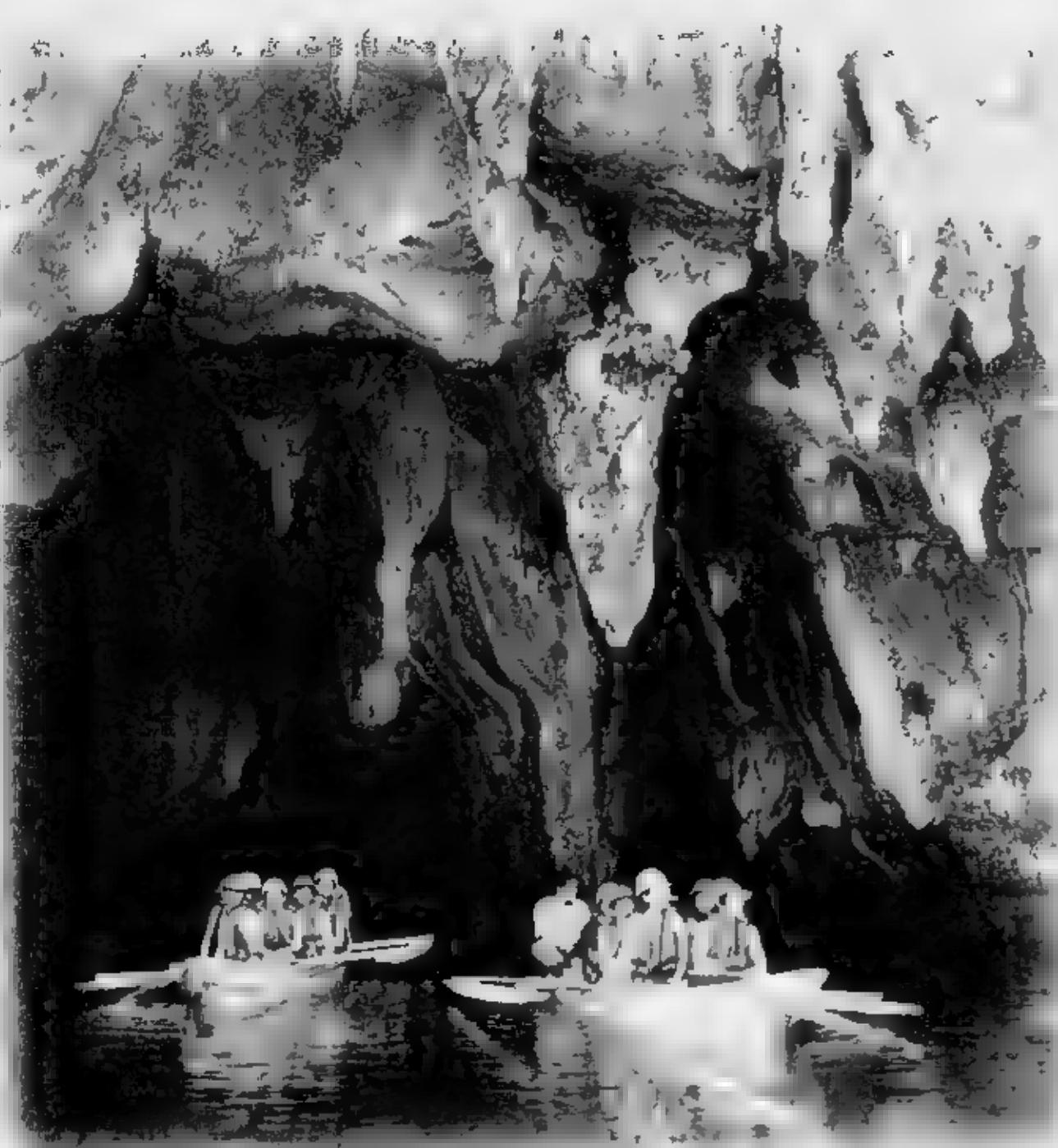
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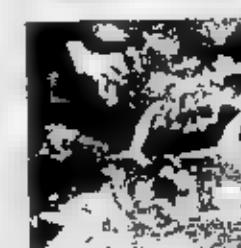
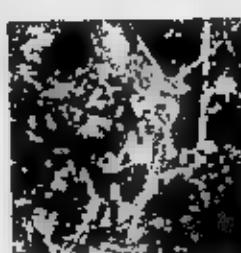
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A Wright honorable gentleman

By Micky Fenix

WHAT YOU SEE IS INDEED WHAT you get

Ian Wright, that intrepid globe trekker, our favorite travel companion, is as hilarious, naughty and energetic up close as he is on screen.

The accent is there, which we can only surmise is from Ipswich, his hometown. He comes into the press conference carrying a cut-out of Karen Mok, the Hong Kong actress with whom he spent some time for his new Discovery Travel and Living show, "VIP Weekends with Ian Wright."

The television personality was dressed in a tuxedo, as befits his new series that has him hobnobbing with the rich and famous. Asked if he had discarded his backpacker persona, he declared, "Those days are over. Backpackers are for losers!"

And, with that he mugged for us the way he does on TV, taking on that haughty, aristocratic James Bond-ish look.

Everyone wanted to know how he felt about spending weekends with some of the richest people in the world. He described the experience as "the other end of the sky" and "two worlds colliding."

Did he make any social gaffes? "Probably just turning up" was his answer. Not remembering names comes close. But in the wine region of Bordeaux, he said, they were too drunk to notice.

From the preview of some scenes, Wright looked right at home in a limo as on a camel. He feels it's harder for the rich to get down to a lower level because they're not used to it.

Rule makers

He went on about class difference, how both the rich and the working class went about with their lives without having to explain anything. And that it's the middle class that made the rules about how to act.

He said the question set him off, then he

AT A SPANISH fiesta with the Domecq family



stood up to take a lecturer's stance. The bit of acting is how he usually puts the period to his statement and he uses the comic touch to lighten an otherwise serious conversation.

Wright was not only promoting his new series but also was one of the attractions of the World Gourmet Summit in Singapore. A "Dinner with Ian Wright" was sold out weeks before. Some 300 people attended what was billed as "The Food I Like."

At the press conference, however, he first talked about the most awful food he had eaten. Those weren't exactly great appetizers to the very good lunch at the China House, an exclusive club in Singapore. He recapped past shows where he recalled his "disgusting" tastings.

There was the rancid shark in Iceland. Wright said the recipe was "put shark in hole, leave it there for eight months, stick it in a shed to dry for four months, eat it when it becomes moldy with the shark scent." He said a restaurant in Reykjavik served it "just for kicks."

Massacre

Then there was raw seal in Canada. His de-

scription of the dish was like a massacre: "blood all over, intestines squeezed out in a sauce and it had fat and was brown." He called it Dracula fare.

Worst food in America? He concedes it's possible to get good food in the big cities but throughout the country, it's "rubbish fast food." A taxi driver even told him that to get a proper sit-down meal, they should go to McDonald's.

Mongolia holds a special place in his gastronomic memory because it was there where he was handed a sheep's eye as honored guest. "It just stays in your mouth," he complained.

You could tell he would have preferred to be given the ear that Mongolians give to kids so they listen to adults.

And then fried cockroach in Cambodia. That was just a substitute for spider that was even more special. He asked to imagine that "as you bite the legs coming at you, I don't know what's worse."

You'd have to keep in mind that Wright is a vegetarian. So his willingness to taste all that seems to be the acid test of his adventurous self.

As to good food memories, he mentioned fish in Norway. And anywhere in Southeast Asia where one can always "get a decent bowl of noodles." He likes Italian pasta, especially a la minute noodles.

Skipping RP

Mentioning Southeast Asia, of course, led to the question of why he hadn't been to the Philippines. He couldn't say but he did know another group that did the show was here.

We hope that whoever plans for him will not highlight extreme cuisine.

More of what he liked was at the dinner at the Grand Hyatt Singapore. The noodle soup was Thai-style with minced chicken and coriander. There was the very English fish n' chips and roasted sirloin of beef with Yorkshire pudding. The dinner ended with South American desserts.

Guests went through six wines, from sparkling to sauvignon blanc (two kinds), chardonnay, pinot noir and gewurztraminer.

The menu was really simple but people didn't seem disappointed because they came to see Wright and he was a showman during



WRIGHT employs a comic touch to lighten an otherwise serious conversation.

lunch, answering the many questions, mugging, totally being himself.

The weekend with Mok in Hong Kong airs at 10 p.m., May 7, on Discovery Travel and Living.

Five other episodes follow every week featuring the earl and countess of Carnarvon in England, the Mewar royal family in India, Domecq family in Spain, Simon Woodroffe on a houseboat in the United Kingdom, and Florence and Daniel Cathiard in France, specifically the Chateau Haut Lafitte in Bordeaux.

But whether he is returning from a backpacking journey or a rarefied weekend off from work is having beer with his mates in the snooker hall with a toilet that stinks.

Wright is married with two children. Sounding like any parent who couldn't believe the choices their kids made, he declared one of them wanted to be in the military. It was accompanied by the appropriate facial expression.

His advice for the adventure traveler: "Don't think about it, buy a flight ticket tomorrow and then worry about it on the plane. This is the hardest step."

Just goes to show that Wright hasn't really been to this country. Our hardest step is to get a visa.

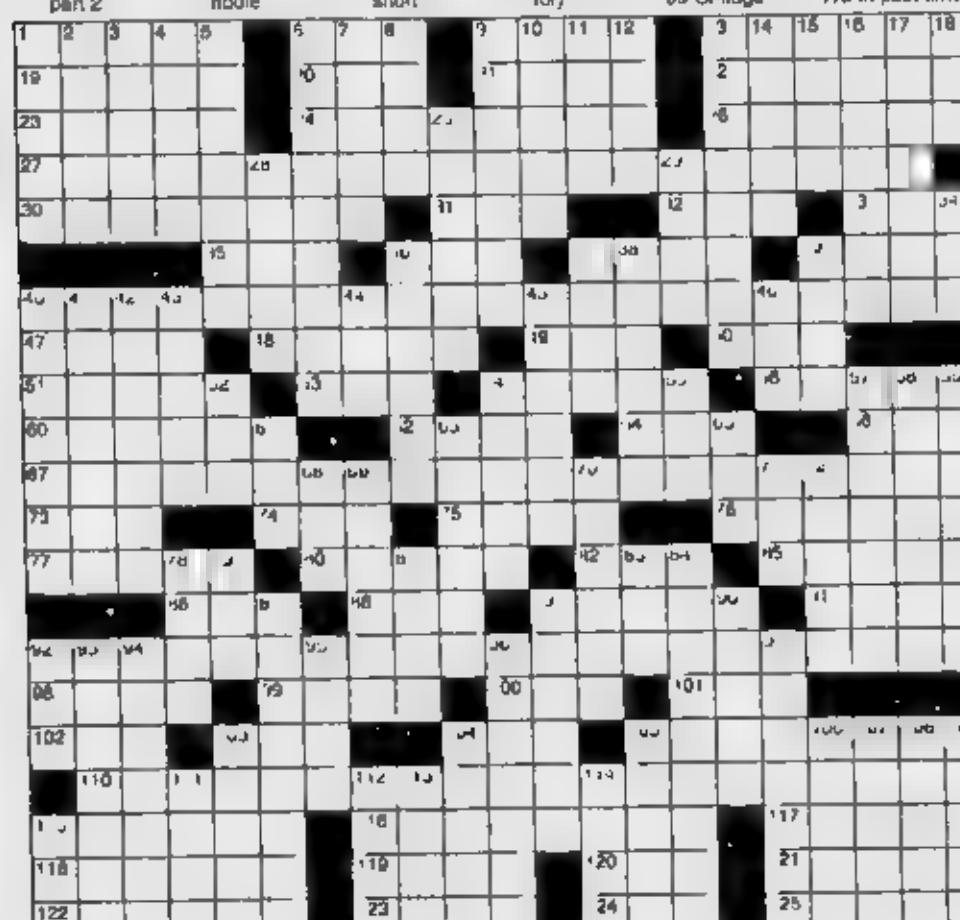
The TV host has put his backpack in storage and given his tuxedo an airing to hobnob with the rich and famous

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

SMELL TEST

1. Scruggs bluegrass partner	47. Actress Olin	98. Himalayan humanoid	3. Westminister	38. Fall in love	64. Members of the regume family
6. Tam, e.g.	48. Adams of photography	99. Kinono bell	—	39. Pass out cards	65. Separating Miami and Miami Beach
8. Cloths	49. Thumb's-up vola	100. 18th letters	4. fat (dietary no-no)	40. 60-Acre	87. Bay
13. Moved in and out of traffic	50. Sailor's setting	years on and	5. "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air"	41. Alleviate	91. Rattling
19. Zodiac sign	51. Former Oldsmobile	101. Years and	42. Very simple, as a process	42. French river	92. Jee
20. You -- what you eat!	53. Lady's man	103. First-rate	8. Some monkeys and monkeys	43. Forensic drama on CBS	93. Clean well
21. Muffin topper	54. Fell heavily	104. H.S. math	9. Sicker	44. Rules	94. Season
22. Make it there	56. Address	105. Putting decorative buttons on	10. Jp in the air	45. Inferior grade	95. Six-sided figure
23. Up in baseball	58. Pluto's creator	106. Riddle's answer	11. Soap star	52. Above, in verse	96. Parallels
24. Boats used to support temporary bridges	62. Kit, of old comics	115. Part of EPA	12. Winter pear	53. Incident	97. Scottish Cott
26. Elevates	64. man — mouse?	116. Queen Margot's star	13. Soldiers	54. Gal cozy	98. Large Marish
27. Star of a riddle	66. Gorilla, e.g.	117. " — vacation?"	14. Sonneleer's Muse	55. Suniac of song	99. Stowaway, in
30. Kikkoman product	67. Riddle, part 3	118. Singer lightfoot	15. Diva's delivery	56. Seasonal operator?	100. Broad te
31. Young issue	73. — had enough?	119. Where Walked is	16. Guest	57. Sideways	104. Japanese beer
32. — de Janeiro, Brazil	74. Pub beverage	120. Towing org.	17. Make smooth	58. Incident	105. Sound upon impact
33. Water tester?	75. Prudent	121. Pronged, as a fork	18. — Plains	59. Gai	106. "To Live and — L.A."
35. Jimtost Memphis-Blox dir	76. Like Abe	122. At the scene itself	29. Tree decoration	60. Sumac of song	107. — a Letter to My Love" (1981 film)
37. Toy block brand	77. Land of Sherpas	123. Barbecue bar	28. — sight!	61. Styrene	108. "Raider" Ralph
39. Quarterback part 2	80. Pale purple	124. — all good?	29. Thus	62. Cigar wasie	109. Forest clearing
40. Riddle, part 2	82. Carders demands	125. — nous (in confidence)	34. Sense of self	63. Flu-ridden	111. — in my cap
	85. Yule song		36. North of Hollywood	64. Mimic	112. Life stories, for short
	86. Collar		37. In — of (as a subculture for)	65. Mister Ed	113. Fast on a memo
	88. Long snouted fish		81. Thin wood strip	70. Fakie-outs	114. Jet follower
	89. Nibbles		83. Smidge	71. Ad —	115. In past time
	91. Take on cargo			72. Counting everything	
	92. End of the riddle			78. Dissenter	
				79. Quick getaway	
				80. Memo	
				81. Thin wood strip	
				83. Smidge	



ANSWER ON PAGE G4

Around the world on Discovery Channel

Hong Kong: Karen Mok

Set against the beautiful Hong Kong skyline, Ian Wright is invited to watch actress Karen Mok do what she does best—be Karen Mok. Throughout the episode, he crashes her fashion shoot, hijacks her karaoke booth, plays the voice of an animated animal in a movie, eats her pudding and fights her trainer. (Airs May 7, 10 p.m.; encores May 8, 10 a.m.)

UK: The Earl and Countess of Carnarvon

In this episode, Ian Wright is invited to spend a weekend with Lord and Lady Carnarvon at Highclere Castle in the English countryside. Presented with his own personal coach, Ian must prove himself before he can handle a gun. As he waits nervously for the big occasion, a butler tends to his needs and he is wined and dined in luxury. (Premieres May 14, 10 p.m.; encores May 15, 10 a.m.)

India: The Mewar Royal Family

Ian Wright returns to a more leisurely pace when he travels to Udaipur, India, as guest of honor to Princess Bhagavati and the Royal Family of Mewar, one of the world's oldest serving dynasties. Any illusions of grandeur that Ian has are put to rest when he attempts to play polo, plays cricket and must give an appropriate birthday gift to the prince on his birthday. (Premieres May 21, 10 p.m.; encores May 22, 10 a.m.)

Spain: The The Domecq Family

Ian Wright spends a weekend with the Alvaro Domecq family and, in addition to sherry, gets to taste the lifestyle of Spanish aristocracy. It is Fiesta Week in Jerez de la Frontera, and although he hoped to spend most of his time alongside the Domeqcs, waving to the

crowds, Ian must take part in another family activity—bullfighting. His weekend stay at the magnificent ranch Los Albericos also turns Ian onto the amazing culture of horses and bulls. (Premieres May 28, 10 p.m.; encores May 29, 10 a.m.)

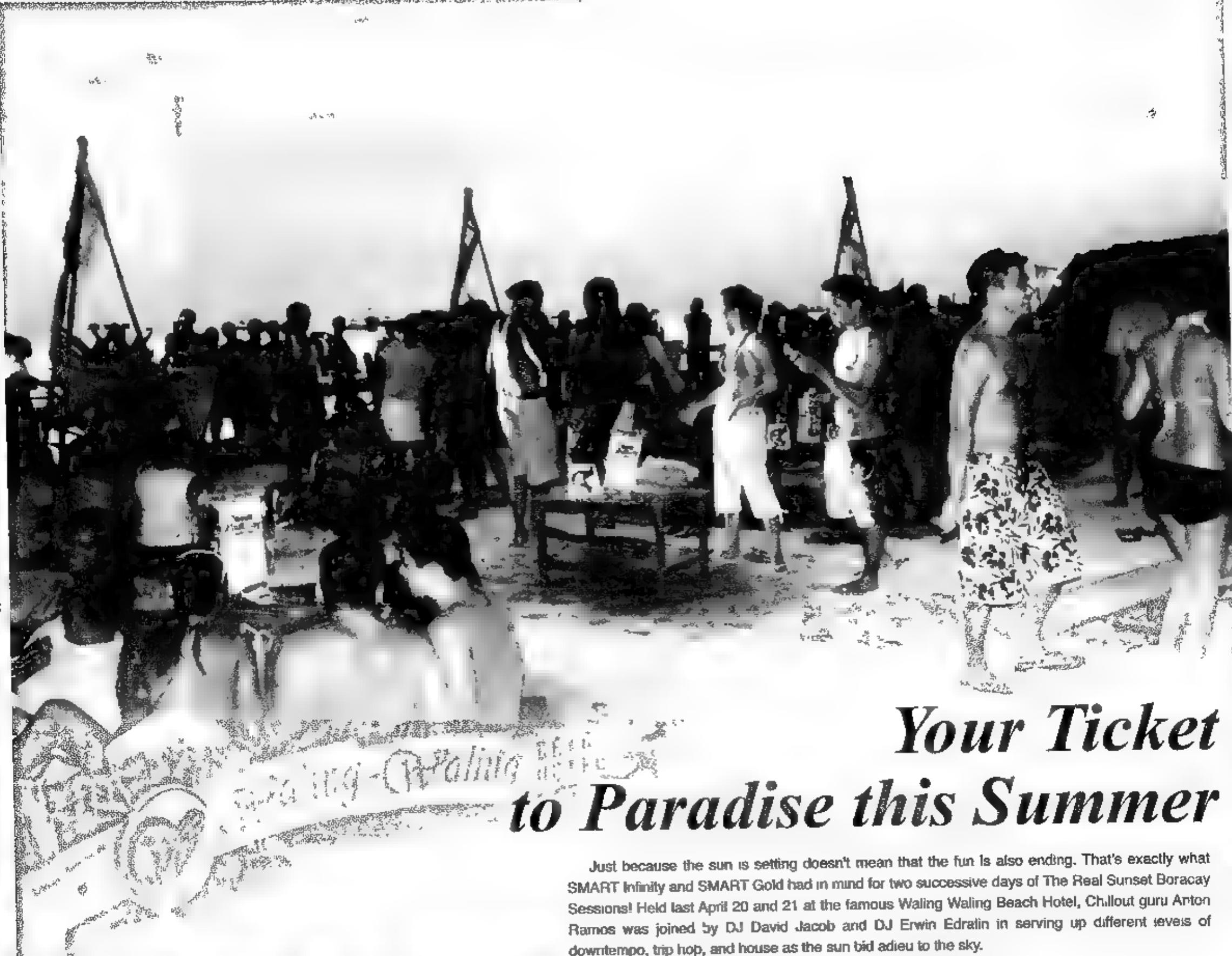
UK: Simon Woodroffe

Ian Wright spends a weekend on water when he is invited to stay aboard British entrepreneur Simon Woodroffe's houseboat, which is moored along the river Thames in London. Founder of Yo Sushi, Yotel and various other business ventures, Simon introduces Ian to "his" London and soon has Ian climbing scaffolding, swimming in Hyde Park (during the winter), kickboxing and making sushi. The duo also drives to Weymouth to sail one of the fastest yachts on water with part of the fastest crew in England. (Premieres June 4, 10 p.m., encores June 5, 10 a.m.)

France: Florence and Daniel Cathiard

Englishman Ian Wright goes to France in this episode for an exclusive weekend with Florence and Daniel Cathiard and family. Set in the magnificent Chateau Haut Lafitte in the Bordeaux countryside, Ian spends the weekend pampered in a way only the French could achieve—with wine, wine and more wine.

However, armed with taste buds only from Ipswich, Ian feels he could be in for a long weekend until he realizes that the grape has other things in store for him. Vinotherapy included. What was potentially a beer drinker's nightmare turns into a cultural revelation with Ian Wright ultimately being enthroned into the Bordeaux Society of Elite Wine drinkers. (Premieres June 11, 10 p.m.; encores June 12, 10 a.m.)



Your Ticket to Paradise this Summer

Just because the sun is setting doesn't mean that the fun is also ending. That's exactly what SMART Infinity and SMART Gold had in mind for two successive days of The Real Sunset Boracay Sessions! Held last April 20 and 21 at the famous Waling Waling Beach Hotel, Chillout guru Anton Ramos was joined by DJ David Jacob and DJ Erwin Edralin in serving up different levels of downtempo, trip hop, and house as the sun bid adieu to the sky.

The event in Waling Waling also served as a celebration of the new partnership between SMART Infinity, SMART Gold, Southeast Asian Airlines (SEAIR), and Ray-Ban. Only SMART Gold can give you free sunset sessions featuring Manila's best DJs. For SMART Infinity subscribers, the VIP treatment is something that they've gotten used to. Not only were SMART Infinity subscribers treated to "The Real Boracay Sunset Sessions" for free, they also got complimentary drinks and free entrance to the party of the year: Hed Kandi in Boracay! Who else but SMART can offer VIP service like that?



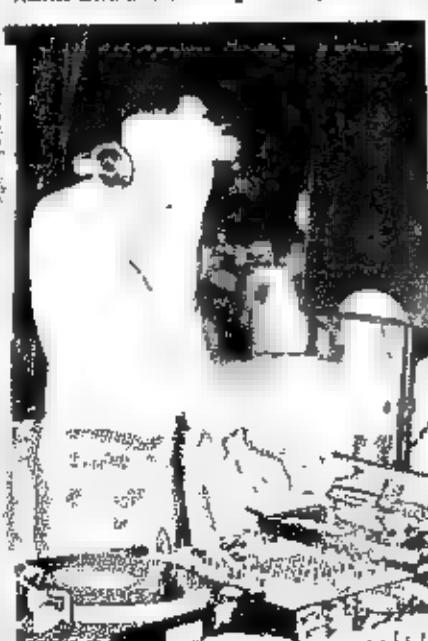
DJs Anton Ramos, Erwin Edralin, David Jacob and Manolet Dario flank SMART Infinity's Tom Valderrama.



Chicho Suarez, GP Reyes and JR Isaac



Anne Curtis
Bianca King
Erik Cua and
Michelle Parmentuan



DJ David Jacob at the turntable

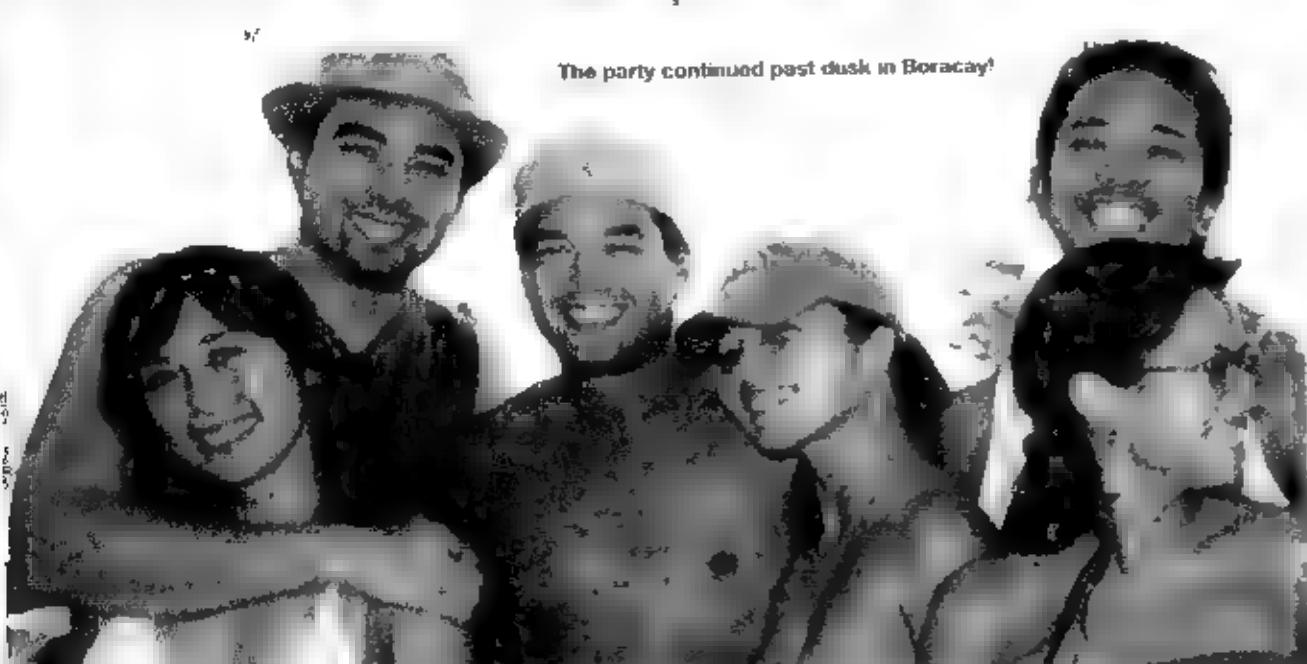


Nicole Hernandez and Kelly Mise



Luke Jokain
Luisito Sison

The party continued past dusk in Boracay!



From the moment Big Fish and SMART landed in Boracay, everyone knew that the party was coming with them. The difference this time around was the presence of the ultra-suave DJs and the tie-up with SEAIR and Ray-Ban. After becoming so in-demand for his skill on the turntable, DJ Anton has served as purveyor of house and electronica both in the Philippines and across Asia. In fact, his "The Chillout Project" CDs are acknowledged as the largest selling electronica/dance compilations in the country to date.

For his part, DJ Erwin Edralin has been a staple of the Manila party scene for well over a decade now. Unique and often described as classy and subdued, his music never fails to be playful, funky, soulful, and deep. Though based in Hong Kong, DJ David Jacob has become a frequent visitor to our shores in the past few years. An entrepreneur who doubles (and dabbles) at DJ-ing, David's house influence can be regularly heard at clubs like Embassy and Bed.

The beachfront of Waling Waling transformed into a place where party denizens could relax and (what else?) chill out of course. As DJ Anton manned the booth for two days and ably weaved his musical web, heads were nodding, bodies moving, and everyone couldn't help but groove to the beat. On the second day of "the Sessions", DJs David and Erwin eventually took their turns on the turntable, and there was no letdown in the level of coolness. If this is any indication, SMART Infinity and SMART Gold will definitely cater to all your needs, flying you to the beach of your dreams wearing the coolest shades and listening to the smoothest rhythms in the process.

SMART Infinity and SMART Gold subscribers who buy select Ray-Ban sunglasses can get free tickets to either Boracay or Palawan via SEAIR. On the flipside, SMART Infinity and SMART Gold subscribers who purchase SEAIR tickets heading for Palawan or Boracay get select complimentary shades from Ray-Ban.

SMART
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Enjoy life's best.

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TRAVELBRIEFS

Summer packages

The Meralco Management and Leadership Development Center (MMLDC) is offering various summer packages. They include the Family Weekend Getaway Summer Weekend Cook-out, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays (menus start at P199 and is inclusive of soup, salad or rice); May is for Moms, that includes a visit to the Lady of Good Voyage shrine at the Antipolo Cathedral. On May 14 is the Mother's Day Blow-out. MMLDC will also celebrate Antipolo's Sumakah Festival, held first week of May with Sumakah Surprise. Call 6328111 E-mail mmldc_marketing@meralco.com.ph or visit www.mmldc.com

Medical tourism

The Department of Tourism hopes to make medical/health

services one of the country's tourist attractions in its drive to attract more visitors in the next five years. President Macapagal-Arroyo has created a special task force on medical tourism that would coordinate efforts of three government departments—Tourism, Health, and Trade and Industry. Among the areas that are expected to be promoted are cosmetic surgery and hospital/medical services.

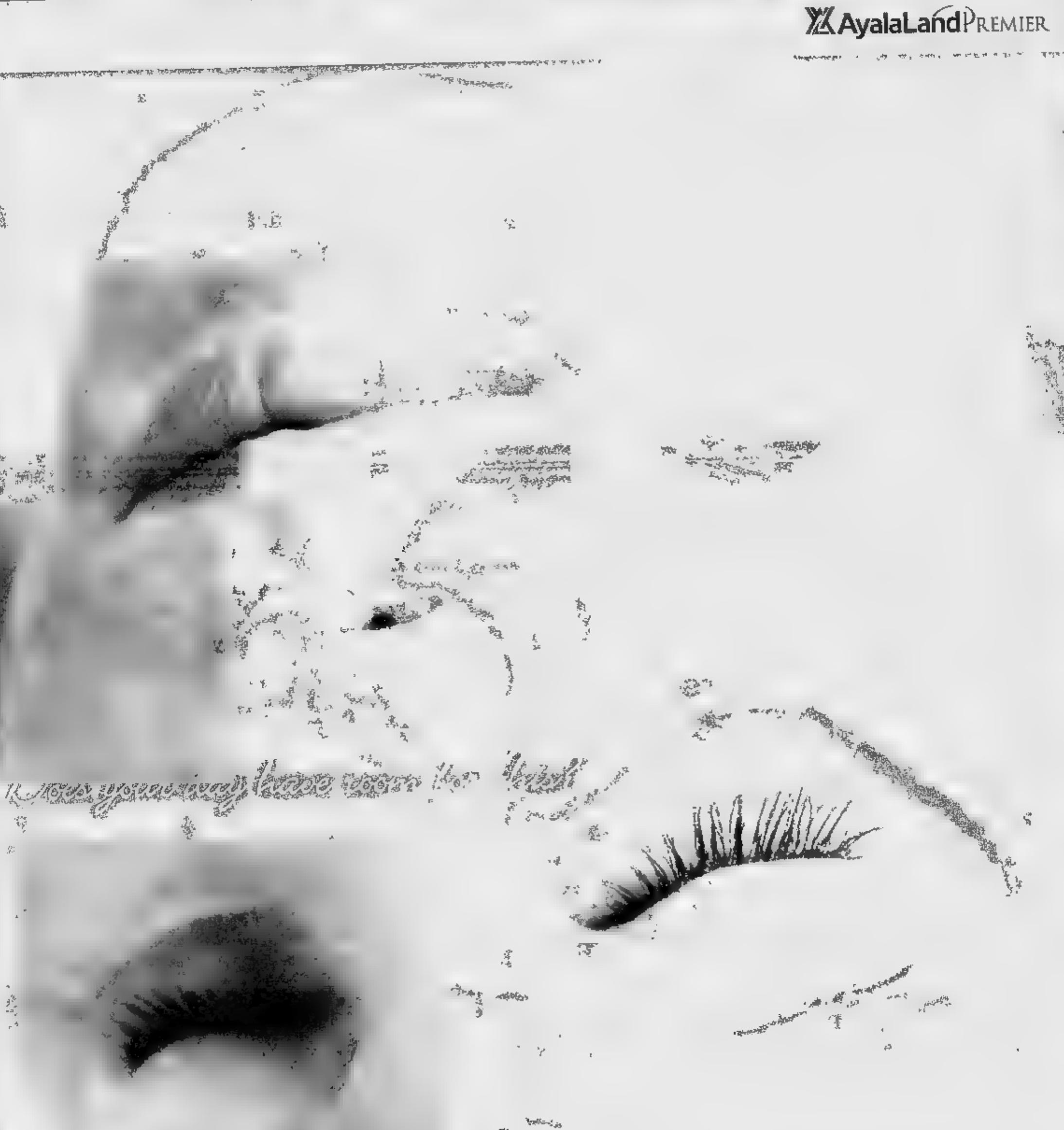
'Go' Fares

Travelers can now make their booking online for Cebu Pacific's (CEB) "Go" fares, the year-round low-cost airfare, through the new website www.cebupacificair.com. CEB's "Go" fares in 16 prime domestic destinations like Roxas City in Capiz, the "Seafood Capital of the Philippines," are reduced by as much as 50 percent. Call 7020888.

**BARKADAHAN**

PACKAGE
Fairways & Bluewater Resort Golf & Country Club is offering the Barkadahan Getaway package in partnership with the new Bora Air jet service until May 31. With a minimum of eight persons, a barkada pays only P8,875 per person at the resort and P5,000 each for airfare on Bora Air. The package includes three-days, two-nights stay at Boracamp Wilderness in Fairways & Bluewater and breakfast. Bora Air, operated by Interisland Airlines, has four flights daily from Manila to Caticlan and vice versa. Call 6331393 to 95.

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For feedback, e-mail us at: lifestyle@inquirer.com.phText and photos by
Cheche V. Moral

BARELY two weeks before it was officially springtime, Europe's bitter-cold winter looked like it wasn't about to go swiftly just yet.

But denizens of the German capital were unfazed. Bundled up in their thermal wear and layers of wishful thinking, they scurried to the checkout counters of the Swedish shop H&M on Kurfürstendamm, Berlin's main shopping avenue, with arms full of gauzy spring wear, as if on a primitive rite to heat up the frigid air outdoors.

At about this time, the Philippines' Department of Tourism, quite opportunely—and not without tons of wishful thinking, too—was showing beckoning sunny images of the islands on a video wall at the International Tourism-Börse in Berlin. After all, the Philippines is not alone in the quest to seduce tourists to sunny isles, beautiful beaches and warm tropical smiles that can melt ice.

Biggest fair

ITB is the world's biggest annual travel fair and tourist marketplace, with some 10,000 exhibitors from 180 countries. Logistically speaking, the Philippines' participation this year was quite modest next to its Asian neighbors alone. But in the country's pursuit to lure Europe, one of its most coveted tourist markets, it looked like it wasn't just the Germans who had undaunted spirits. And it was easy to see why.

While China, Korea and Japan remain the Philippines' biggest tourist markets volume-wise, Europe is considered its prime market, with guests staying an average of 21 days, considerably longer than Asian tourists; ergo, greater spending and long-term profits.

The country has been on a roll since it emerged from the tourist slump that began in the late '90s as a result of the peace-and-order situation, among other factors. Tourist arrivals in January alone was up by 22 percent compared to January 2005. It was a record growth that owed much to intensive image building.

FROM RUSSIA/F2

From Russia and Germany With Love

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Start enjoying endless fun taking pictures with your new Kodak EasyShare digital camera and begin sharing these memories on real Kodak prints at half the price!

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Promo runs from April 1 to May 31, 2006.
Discount vouchers valid until July 30, 2006.

*Discount value is based on SRP of P9.50 per 4x6 print.
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MINDANAO Gaisano Mall Davao | Robinsons Cagayan de Oro | SM Davao

* Movieworld coupon entitles holder to one free movie ticket upon purchase of one regular movie ticket or P60 worth of snacks at the Cinema Snack Express. Coupon valid until August 31, 2006.

** January and February 2006 issues.



The Sun Shop

Promo Period: April 28 - May 25, 2006.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0942, Series of 2006.



EUROPEAN guests get free tuk-tuk lessons from the Bayanihan dancers.



MEMBERS of the House Committee on Tourism, Reps. Florencio Miraflores of Aklan, Miles Andrew Roces of Manila and Antonio Alvarez of Palawan.



VENUS Tan, DOT-Frankfurt director for Central and Eastern Europe; Consul Gen. Leslie Baja; and Ambassador Delia Albert (with orange scarf).



FILIPINO models don couture by Pitay Moreno, Ben Farvales, Inna Sotza and Rajo Laurel for the reception held for Russian tour operators.

From Russia and Germany, With love



THE PROPOSED Philippines center on Fasanenstrasse, near the prestigious Kempinski Hotel in Berlin.



ITB guests sample the massage services of therapists Richard Escucha and Rachel Castro.



BAYANIHAN musicians and singer-dancers delight the Russians with their performance of a Russian folk song and dance.



A TAE kwon do demonstration by young German students at the Korea booth.

From page F1

ing and bullish market-specific campaigns.

"The worst case for us is to be paralyzed," said Tourism Sec. Joseph Durano. "We're moving from sporadic to annual campaigns. Our goal is to maintain visibility." The current DOT tack is "awareness, preference, purchase." "We're putting more science into what we're doing, that's why we're hiring global consultants."

In the United Kingdom last year, the DOT launched its tactical drive, adorning 50 London cabs with jeepney-like art in promoting WOW! Philippines, the tourism campaign launched at the time of Sec. Richard Gordon, and now continued by Durano. In some markets, like Korea and Japan, the department has hired local celebrity endorsers in its effort "to intimidate with the market."

Last month, during the ITB, the DOT launched an Infoscreen campaign in 114 German train stations spanning 12 major cities. The campaign runs round the clock at five-second intervals, and will initially run for six months. As for the cost, "It's worth it," stressed Venus Tan, DOT-Frankfurt's director for Central and Eastern Europe. The Infoscreen has an estimated consumer reach of 11,400 daily per station.

Germany has one of the biggest tourist arrivals to the Philippines from Europe, second only to the United Kingdom. Mostly professionals and business executives on holiday, German visitors gravitate to the beaches of Cebu, Boracay and Mindoro, staying an average of 21 days. Sixty percent are repeat travelers.

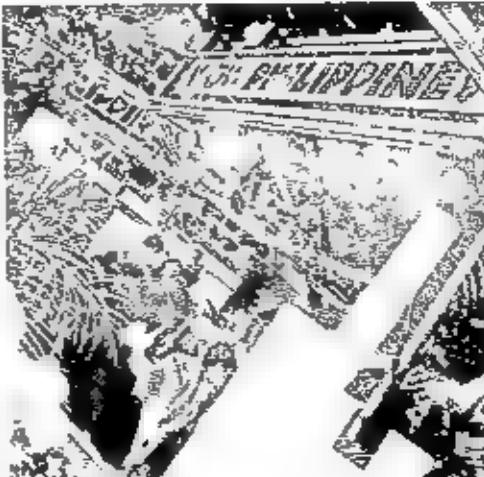
Concern

It must be recalled that following the kidnapping of a German family in Sipadan in 2000, German arrivals considerably dropped. But the confidence is back, according to Tan.

"They're not affected by the Philippines' [political] situation," said Leslie Baja, Philippine consul general in Berlin, several weeks after the President proclaimed a state of emergency. "They tend to compartmentalize. *Huwag lang may kidnapping.*"

Still, security is a major concern with tourists, especially the Europeans. "When something happens, we work double time to reassure them," said Nadja Trinchera of Rajah Tours.

"We get bombarded with e-mails," added Baron Travel's Maria Aurora Tadeo with a grimace. "Madala dinadaan-daanan lang kamo." Which explains why, for three years, Baron



THE MODEST Philippine booth

didn't participate in the ITB.

"We tell them it's happening globally, it's not only in the Philippines," Trinchera said. "Filipinos can be quite melodramatic, and it affects tourists. We hope media would tone down its reportage."

At the ITB, however, Tadeo, who admitted 2005 was a very good year for the travel industry, said they had promising talks with their European counterparts. "But we have to wait for three months" if those talks would translate to sales. They're not dissuaded, she added. "We're here, right? And that's affirmation enough that we're ready to do business."

Oil-rich

Indeed. Several days later, the private sector also trooped to Moscow with the DOT team, to intensify the campaign for the country's fastest emerging market: the Russians.

If there's anybody who has most benefited from the rising cost of oil, it is the Russians. Forbes Magazine recently reported that oil



SEC. Durano and Vladimir Strzhalkovsky, head of the Russian Federal Agency of Tourism, sign the bilateral tourism agreement between Russia and the Philippines.

Europe remains Philippine tourism's prime market, with European guests staying an average of 21 days, considerably longer than Asian tourists

rich Russia now has the third most number of billionaires. And they are quite the enthusiastic spenders and travelers. One of Europe's fastest growing outbound travelers, the Russians are among the world's top spenders and luxury shoppers, justifiably making them a very desirable market.

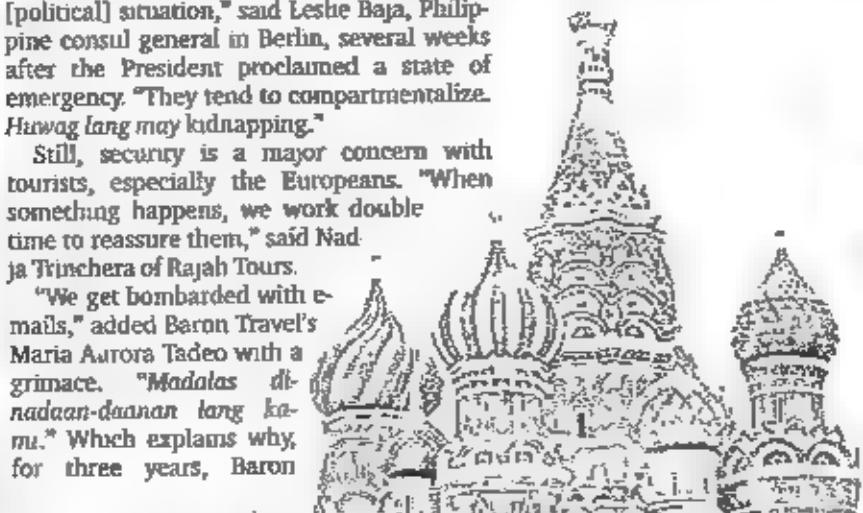
Given Russia's unforgiving climate for almost half of the year, Muscovites are inclined to travel to the warm tropics. However, the Philippines is still a relatively unknown destination for most Russians, said Vladimir Strzhalkovsky, head of the Russian Federal Agency of Tourism, such that most Muscovites would spend their holidays in Asian countries like Thailand and Malaysia.

Even then, Russian arrivals to the Philippines posted the greatest increase by the end of 2005, at 181 percent, compared to the previous year. A very encouraging development that paved for the signing of a bilateral tourism agreement that also coincided with

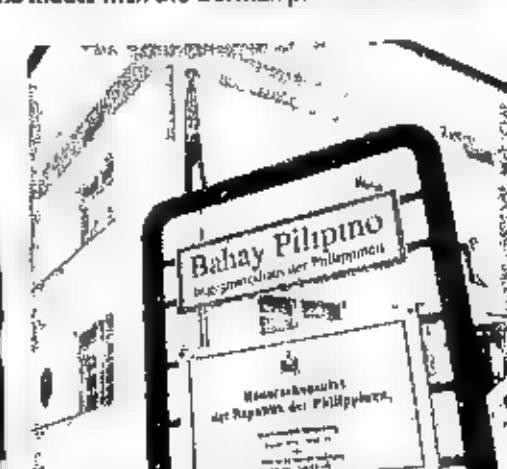
FROM RUSSIA, F4



TOURISM Sec. Joseph "Ace" Durano meets with the German press at the ITB.



THE PHILIPPINE delegation to the Moscow tourism-selling mission, in front of St. Basil's Cathedral in Red Square



THE BAHAY Pilipina in Potsdam, Germany, which Manfred Schnell put up with his Filipina wife, Stella Pimentel Schnell

Talk 'N Text AnniverSAYA hits Cagayan de Oro

On the latest stop of Talk 'N Text's 6th year anniversary celebration, the Limketkai Mall in Cagayan de Oro City served as venue for the "AnniverSAYA" party! As the third leg of this party series, Cagayan de Oro proved to be a more than able host for the numerous activities planned for the entire day.



AnniverSAYA sa Umaga

Last April 22, 2006, the opening festivities were attended by celebrities Vhong Navarro, Tuesday Vargas and Dominic Ochoa. Governor Oscar Moreno, Mr. Albino Limketkai and Councilor Eduardo Ayunting were also on hand at the entrance arch to the main stage as the early birds to the party were treated to three AnniverSAYA Lands filled with games and treats. ANNI Land saw people playing with Big Dice, Stick Fights, Giant Basketball and Giant Tumbang Latal. Visiting YER Land could get you a new haircut, face paint, henna tattoos, as well as some yummy food treats. Sumo Wrestling, Tic Tac Toe, Giant Pick Up Sticks, and Shoot D' Loops were waiting for the adventurous people who dropped by SAYA Land.

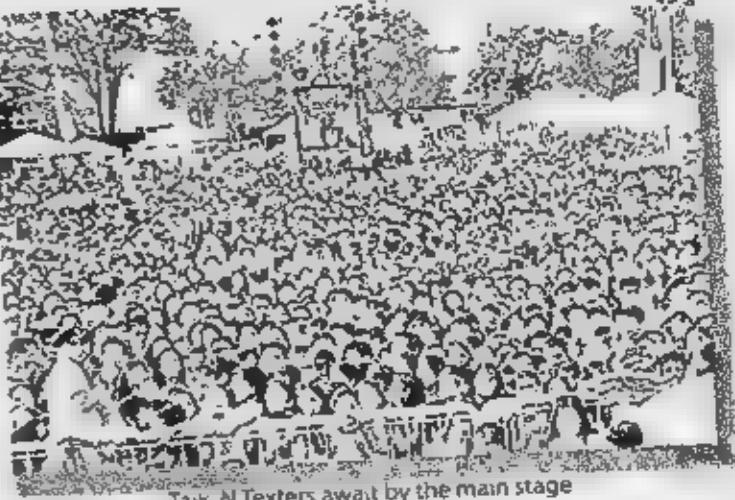
AnniverSAYA sa Tanghalan

From 12:30pm until 7:00 in the evening, popular heartthrob Jericho Rosales joined Tuesday, Vhong and Dominic in meeting and greeting their fans at the "Teatro ng Tuwa". More exciting games and prizes were played as the people of CDO joined their idols onstage. Later, outrageous comedienne Rufa Mae Quinto and beautiful Heart Evangelista made their way to join in the Talk 'N Text party!

AnniverSAYA sa Gabi

Rufa Mae had the fans rolling in the aisles with her trademark comedy and via a dance number, while Heart and Jericho thrilled the locals courtesy of a romantic duet. Some of the funniest comedians who regularly perform at the Lafligne comedy clubs also trekked to Cagayan de Oro to add to the raucous fun. Not content with merely bringing celebrities to the city, Talk 'N Text AnniverSAYA also raffled off some amazing prizes! Moncho Sandiego won a scooter, Roberto Bermudo won a Motorola phone kit, while Roy Virtudazo won a Promac VCD player and Jeneline Biol won a Promac DVD player. A Phillips TV was won by Rowena Bradero, and if that wasn't enough, Evelyn Subang earned a grocery showcase and Romelyn Cuteron won a kitchen showcase!

The party doesn't end in Cagayan de Oro! Bicolanos better watch out as Talk 'N Text AnniverSAYA will visit Naga City on May 6, 2006 for the next leg of this 6th anniversary extravaganza!



Talk N Texters await by the main stage



Heart and Jericho greet their fans in CDO



Sumo wrestlers get ready to rumble

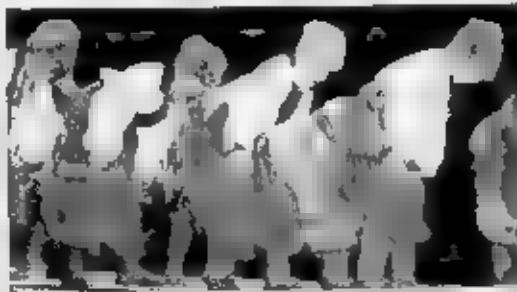


Rufa Mae Quinto, Tuesday Vargas, Dominic Ochoa, and Vhong Navarro at the press conference



Vhong shows off how to work it





THE LOKTEV
Song and Dance
Ensemble has
produced some
famous soloists for
the Bolshoi
Theater.

From Russia and Germany, with love



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Woman on top



Femme Visa



SOME tour operators at the ITB
also offered packages to niche
markets, like gay and lesbian
travelers.

From page F2

the 30th-year celebrations
of diplomatic relations be-
tween the two countries.

Statistics show that Mus-
covites prefer to travel in
countries where a visa-upon-arrival scheme is imple-
mented, and this was one
of the arrangements Dur-
sova promised his counter-
part at the signing.

Luxury accommodations
As Muscovites and other Europeans have a
preference for luxury accommodations, the
Philippines is facing yet another challenge
with the shortage of infrastructure.

"[The number of] tourists is no longer a
problem," says Tan. "Capacity is the problem.
But it's doable if we act together. We need to
strike a balance between our short-haul
(Asian) and long-haul (European) markets."

Cebu and Boracay, for instance, have been
turning away long-haul tourists as some dates
are blocked off for Asian travelers, making it
hard for Europeans to extend their stay. To
add to that, the country has 11 million domes-
tic tourists.

There is, of course, the prospect of invest-
ments that follow tourism. And the DOT is
pinning its hopes on that.

This year, the department was the first to
get its budget approved, and with an increase of
P300 million. Perhaps to show where the

money is going, the DOT
brought three members
of the House Committee
on Tourism to Berlin and
Moscow.

The legislative and the
executive departments
can work together, opined
Palawan Rep. Antonio Al-
varez, by allocating a
more substantial budget
for tourism development.
He suggested a one-directional
focus for govern-
ment agencies for, say, five
years, to develop infra-
structure and other areas for

tourism promotion, giving full command to
the DOT and essentially making the tourism
secretary the most powerful man in the Cab-
inet. He asserted, however, that given the
country's bureaucratic setup, that may only
be done in theory.

Akran Rep. Florencio Miraflores said the
DOT's "marketing strategy should be to sell
each island as it is," perhaps a more pragmatic
task given how foreigners usually associate
any news of unrest in a specific place to the
rest of the country.

His colleague, Manila Rep. Miles Roces,
however, went further by suggesting a bill to
rename the country to "Philippine Islands
(PI)." The present name "sounds too politi-
cal," he reasoned, and may need a more "at-
tractive, exotic and descriptive" alternative.

A fascinating idea to Roces, perhaps, but
one that's bound to generate not a few out-
raged curses of "p.L!"

E-mail the author at cmaral@inquirer.net

MORE spectacle
from the Loktev
Song and Dance
Ensemble,
which
performed
at the Moscow
Heritage
Center
to celebrate
the 30th
anniversary
of diplomatic
relations
between RP
and Russia.



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SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

AS REWARD
to deserving Mary
Kay ladies, they
get diamond
bumblebee pins...



Sunday LIFESTYLE

GI

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2207 (Globe) or 2701 (Smart)

Painting the town pink

By Allison W. Lopez

NOT EVEN THE FOGGIEST of days could dampen their spirit. They were cheering and singing under a steady drizzle, and in high heels at that.

PAINTING/G2

China's Hangzhou went from red to Mary Kay's signature color at the opening of the beauty company's newest factory

...OR A TRIP TO CHINA! Here, the top sales directors at Hangzhou's famous West Lake



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Get a chance to win a trip for 4 to all 3 destinations!
Join Enervon's More Energy Mas Happy Summer Promo by texting "HAPPY" to 2910.

How to Join:

Open to all consumers who download any HAPPY tone (Mono, Poly, True or Karaoke). Consumers will then earn corresponding raffle entries. For every download of a HAPPY tone, consumers get to earn raffle entries for a chance to win a trip to all three Happy summer spots.

- ONE (1) winner will be drawn
- Winner will have the option to bring three (3) friends for the 3 trips (These three (3) friends may be changed per trip)
- Prize for one (1) winner
 - Trip to Puerto Galera (Luzon)
 - Beach Trip to Boracay (Visayas)
 - Trip to Cagayan De Oro (Mindanao)
- Points will be credited to the cellphone number of the consumer. The consumer mobile number will be his/her identifier
- Subscriber must have enough load to cover the retail cost of the content he/she is downloading
- Registration is free of charge and may only be entered once. Only one name per SIM card is allowed.
- Consumers will be able to check the number of raffle entries by texting ENTRIES to 2910.
- Subscribers may earn raffle entries only for 1 download per content type. If subscriber downloads the same content type more than once, he/she will no longer earn points for the download.

Conditions:

- Subscribers must submit proof of consumption (32 Enervon tablets blaster packs upon claiming of prize).
- The winner should present the following to claim the prize:
 - Present registered mas
 - 32 Enervon tablets blaster packs
 - Winning SIM used in promo
 - Present valid ID with photo (Driver's License, SSS, Company/School ID)
- Prize will be claimed at LOWE INC
- Winner can claim prize 7 days after draw date.
- Prize not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Unilab with prior BFAD approval
- The winner will be notified via telegram, which will indicate how and where he/she may claim the prize.
- The winner will shoulder transportation/travel expenses incurred in the course of claiming the prize.
- An authorized representative from BFAD will be present to supervise the draw
- UNILAB reserves the right to publish the name and/or photographs of winner for advertising and publicity purposes.
- Prize not convertible to cash and non-transferable.
- All taxes will be shouldered by UNILAB.

more
Energy
Mas happy
Summer

MULTIVITAMINS
ENERVON

Promo Period: April 30 to May 30, 2006

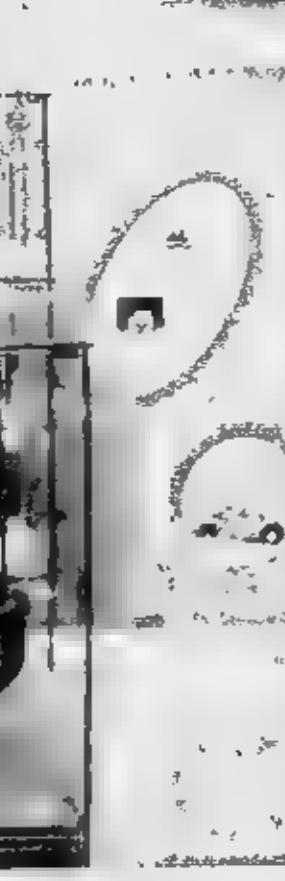
Draw Date: June 1, 2006

Per DOH-BFAD Permit Number 0526, Series of 2006

Disqualification of Participants:
All employees of UNILAB, Entertainment Gateway Group, Savem, Talk N Text, Globe, TM, Sun Cellular and their respective advertising agencies including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from participating in this promo.

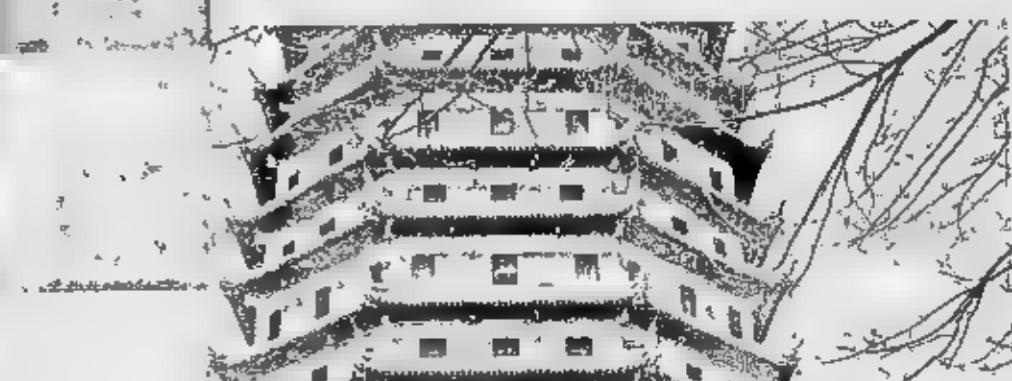


NAMED one of the most influential businesswomen in history, Mary Kay received numerous awards and recognitions, as seen in this display area inside the facility.



THE STATE-OF-THE-ART factory in Hangzhou was built to accommodate the booming China market.

ALI LOPEZ



Painting the town pink

From page G1

It wasn't a religious gathering, but a gathering of the religious, nevertheless. Wearing pink raincoats over their corporate suits, some 700 fully made-up women of Mary Kay (MK) from seven countries assembled on a cold day in March in Hangzhou, China, to witness the birth of a new symbol of the company's rapid expansion in Asia—a 250,000 sq ft, world-class facility that churns out all the beauty booties they've come to love.

"I've got that Mary Kay enthusiasm deep in my heart, deep in my heart," sang the women as they awaited the coming of their top-level male executives. One of them was the founder's grandson, 28-year-old Ryan Rogers, who everybody whispered was good-looking.

He did not disappoint. Everyone wanted to have pictures with him. Also in the entourage were David Holl, MK Inc. president and COO, and KK Chua, MK Asia-Pacific president.

Instead of a ribbon-cutting ceremony, the few good men of Mary Kay delighted the crowd by changing into white sailor uniforms to steer the wheel of the makeshift ship on stage. The company's new voyage, so to speak, finds anchor in the new factory that's said to be more state-of-the-art than the one in Texas and will produce the bulk for China, MK's biggest Asian market.

Some wished for better weather, but Chua believed the raindrops were blessings from heaven. Indeed it was, for though the sky was gray and somber, the grounds were alive with pink, MK's signature color, and warmed by the smiles of these extraordinary women.

Top sales directors

The women, sales directors in their own countries, namely China, Taiwan, HK, Korea, Malaysia, Australia/New Zealand and the Philippines, had won a company contest and were rewarded with a trip to China. It's what other sales companies call a quota, but Mary Kay calls it a "challenge."

Mary Kay, after all, is a company that advocates "a balanced life by placing faith first, family second and career third." It's a corporation that has presence in more than 30 markets, yet it remains one of the largest privately held firms in the US.

These principles stem from the founder herself, Mary Kay Ash, a woman of strikingly strong-willed character. She began making a difference at home, caring for a seriously ill father while getting good grades in school. Her mother was her major inspiration, and whose words of wisdom guide the company till now: "You can do it."

Throughout her life, "the extraordinary thing," said chair and CEO Richard Rogers, son and co-founder, "was the way Mary Kay caused people to believe in themselves."

If you count the Mary Kay sales force in that, then that's about 1.3 million independent beauty consultants worldwide.

Mary Kay Inc. is one of the largest direct sellers of skincare and color cosmetics in the world. It has averaged double-digit annual growth since the company's founding in 1963.

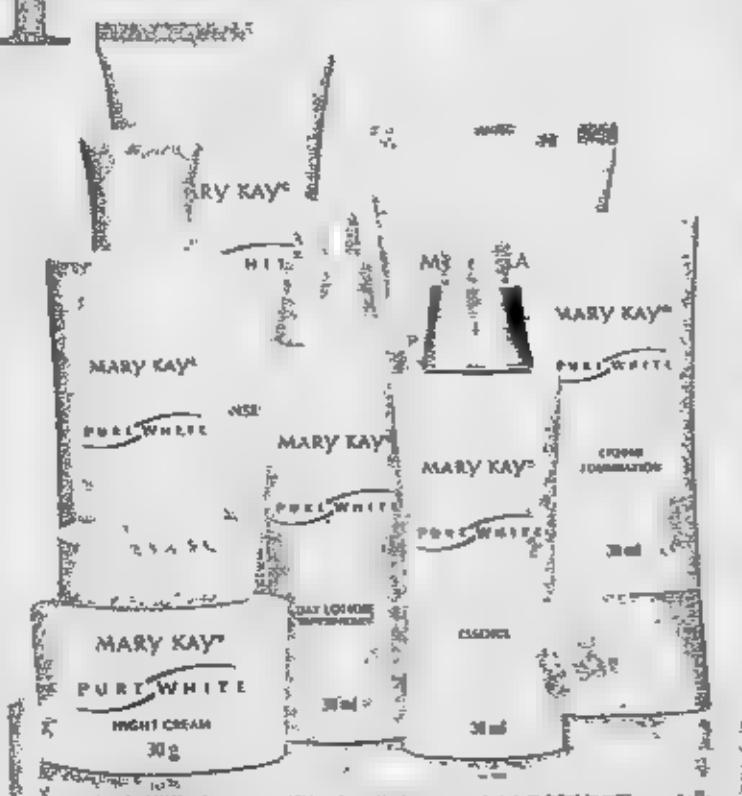
From an initial nine-item collection, the MK product line has expanded to more than 200 premium products in six categories: facial skincare, color cosmetics, nail care, body care, sun protection and fragrance.

The latest is the PureWhite system, a skin-brightening line that was a hit all over Asia and especially in the Philippines, where retail sales reached P7 million when it was launched in March. It must be because Asians, said Holl, are actually more into skincare than Caucasians, who have more makeup lines.

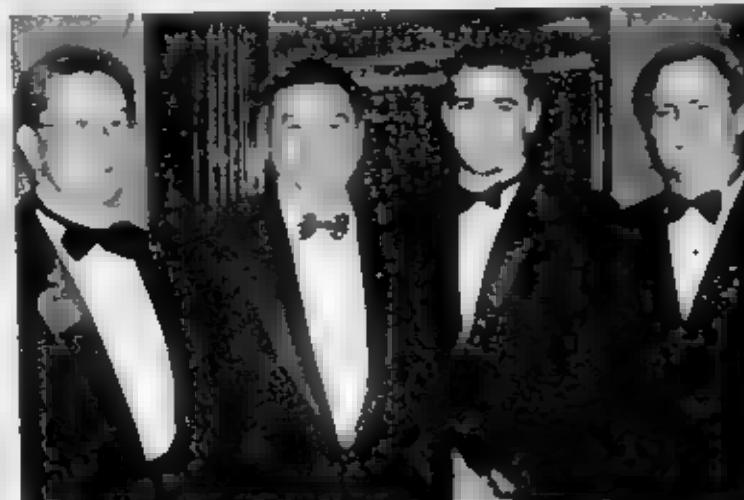
"We're running out of stocks. Purewhite is doing so good it exceeded our expectations," said Bernie Mercado, MK Philippines GM. As for company sales, MK Philippines posted a 75-percent growth last year.

Starting anew

The Philippine sales force now has 10,000 active members. It keeps growing, too, judging by the number of facials done every Saturday on potential recruits, in what the company calls its great events. After the free facials, a presentation on the Mary Kay career path is shown.



PUREWHITE, Mary Kay's latest skin-brightening line, has taken Asia by storm since it was launched last month.



A FEW GOOD MEN. Bernie Mercado, Mary Kay Phils. GM; KK Chua, MK Asia-Pacific president; Mary Kay's grandson Ryan Rogers, board director; and David Holl, MK Inc. president and COO.



EXECUTIVE senior sales director Christina Boyd, MK Philippines' candidate for its first national sales director, leads a breakout group discussion during the workshop.



AT MARY Kay, the ultimate goal is to be national sales director. Power suits distinguish these ladies who can earn about P500,000 a month.



MARY Kay Ash was included in the book "Forbes Greatest Business Stories of All Time," one of 20 and the only woman business leader profiled. Her philosophy? "If you think you can, you can. And if you think you can't, you're right."

Those interested can register and avail of the starter kit that contains a mix of MK products at only P1,975.

The facial worth P500 comes with every business card given by an MK beauty consultant, because the company wants the products to speak for themselves.

Rose Fernandez, a senior sales director, said many women who had the MK facial liked that it brightened up their faces, and ended up buying products or selling them.

She should know, because that was what happened to her. Fernandez hails from Naga City in Bicol and has made it her Mary Kay market.

"I even recruited a battered wife and a wife of a seaman," said Sally Maquilin, a sales director from Cagayan de Oro. Joining Mary Kay has changed these women's lives, she said, because it gave them a chance to start anew and have a career that empowers them. "Now they are two of my most hardworking consultants," she said.

Rewards are aplenty for deserving ladies, and these come in the prettiest forms: bejeweled pins, diamond jewelry, the famous pink cars, and trips abroad such as this one. "We give gifts these women usually don't buy for themselves," Mercado said.

Rewarding trip

And on this trip, they enjoyed the fruits of their labor. After two days of "classes" or seminar-workshops, the Philippine group enjoyed their last day touring Hangzhou. They went to serene West Lake, Hangzhou's famous tourist spot, the nearby Six Harmonies Pagoda and the Lingyin Buddhist Temple. In the evening, they saw a song-and-dance performance, "The Romance of the Song Dynasty," which even made some of them cry "because it was so beautiful." Many in the group were China virgins.

This year holds another first for Mary Kay Philippines, as it eagerly awaits the announcement of its first-ever national sales director

STRIKING a pose at the Six Harmonies Pagoda



EVEN the raincoats were in pink. Drenched sales directors at the factory opening, still all smiles

(NSD) since MK was established here in May 2000. The NSD position is a most coveted one, but getting there entails a climb more difficult than scaling the Great Wall at -4°C.

It's a mean feat to have eight directors below you, and more below them. But then again, you can earn about half a million a month in return.

"The true leaders are the NSDs. They are the Mary Kays after she's gone," said Holl.

Before putting up her own company, Mary Kay herself broke sales records and became NSD in a direct-selling company. She retired after 25 years in corporate sales and having been bypassed for promotion in favor of the men. That's when she began building a company that would provide women like her more opportunities.

"We don't sell just cosmetics, we sell a way of life," said Chua of the Mary Kay culture. "We are very excited about the Philippines because the sales force has this go-give spirit."

This go-give spirit means giving without expecting something in return, another principle the late Mary Kay advocated. A Miss Go-Give is voted by the consultants themselves each year, and Mercado said this award is considered a prestigious gift because "it's not something you can buy with sales."

At Mary Kay's biggest banquet in Asia so far, with the sales directors dressed in their finest, grandson Ryan said, "Mary Kay would have taken pictures with all of them [700-plus delegates] if she were here."

And what a picture it would be—all these beautiful ladies, sparkling with the diamond pins they proudly wore as badges of honor, brightening up even the foggiest of days.

Mary Kay Philippines' head office is at Bldg. 2 La Fuerza Compound, 2241 China Roces Ave., Makati City. Call 8596211 or visit www.marykay.com.ph

E-mail the author at alopez@inquirer.com.ph

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006

GI

Bike maker to the world

CHONGQING IS THE BIGGEST city in South West China, the fourth largest city after Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. It has a population of about 35 million.

Known as the Fog City, it is covered with a thick layer of fog for an average of 68 days a year, usually in spring or autumn.

Chongqing is widely acknowledged as the largest industrial and economic center in China. It accounts for half of the world's motorbike production.

But it is also known for its cultural heritage and tourist attractions. It has parks, lush gardens and picnic spots, offering an endless variety of recreational, environmental and cultural activities for everyone.

One of the popular tourist places is Eling Park at Changjiang Lu, Yuzhong district. Originally called Edingling (Goose Nape Hill) for its narrow and steep shape, the park was built in 1909.

It was originally the home of



STREET food is deeply ingrained in Chinese culture. BELLE BONDOC

Lee, a rich businessman. Also known as Courteous Park, it now boasts of special plants and a new tower, Liangjiang Pavilion, offering a view of the entire city.

The Eling Park is a favorite place for recreation and relaxation in the city, letting one get

close to nature. It is also ideal for outdoor exercises like tai chi.

Chongqing is famous for its hot Szechuan cuisine and hot pot dishes. Street vendors, as well as restaurants, offer exciting spicy delicacies for people with adventurous palates.



ELING Park is ideal for outdoor exercises like tai chi. BELLE BONDOC



CHONGQING is making a name for itself as a place for great shopping. BELLE BONDOC

Connecting a billion people

From page G4

includes e-mail support as well as mobile Internet access via a Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) browser. With WAP users can send and receive e-mail, surf some websites and access news.

The model has a rubberized finish for better grip and comfort plus a color display with mirrored finish.

The Nokia 1112 is designed specifically for first-time users. Known as the "made for India phone," it has simplified display menus and a graphic phonebook for simple navigation. It has a speaking clock with alarm that announces the time in local languages. It is also enhanced with MP3-grade ring tones.

According to Rauno Granath, director for new growth markets, the Nokia 1100 series, to which

this model belongs, has been a hit in India and elsewhere, selling 100 million units globally since its launch, chiefly because of its simple and uncomplicated features.

New solutions

To better serve the needs of low-income consumers, Nokia has started licensing its Prepaid Tracker technology. This feature, present in new entry phones, automatically updates the user phone on its remaining prepaid balance and call expenses.

Subscribers can also view information on the account's expiration date, cost of the last call or SMS, and amount of last prepaid recharge.

A survey conducted by Informa Telecoms & Media in February showed about 70 percent of mobile subscribers in new

growth markets were prepaid users.

"These consumers are after cost-control," said Granath. "They are budget consumers. This is why we're introducing the Prepaid Tracker to help these people monitor and control their call expenses."

A new feature, the Nokia Connect Market Expansion Toolkit, will encourage low-spending consumers to make their calls outside of peak hours for more affordable pricing.

"We believe that the right combination of mobile designs, network solutions, wide coverage and services plus a favorable regulatory environment are essential in providing the benefits of mobility to consumers," said Granath.

E-mail the author at bbondoc@inquirer.com.ph

More Asians set to travel this year

OUTBOUND TRAVEL WILL CONTINUE TO boom in Asia in spite of rising interest rates, higher oil prices and persisting economic uncertainties.

This finding is among the results of MasterCard International's MasterIndex of Travel report. The report forecasts the continued growth of outbound travelers from markets across the Asia-Pacific in the first half of 2006, with the Philippines having the highest predicted year-on-year growth at 13.5 percent.

The MasterIndex of Travel encompasses a six-month forecast of outbound travel for 12 markets covering Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

Besides the forecast of outbound travel, a survey of business and personal travel trends among the urban middle class, with Vietnam included since 2004, was also conducted. The survey was conducted between Oct. 15 and Nov. 4, 2005, with a total of 5,404 consumers participating.

Besides the Philippines, the MasterIndex

of Travel also predicts strong growth from Malaysia (11.2 percent). Significant growth is also expected from Australia (9.5 percent), China (9.0 percent), Japan (8.0 percent) and Korea (7.8 percent).

"Our latest outbound travel forecasts are consistent with our analysis of the long-term outlook of outbound travel. It has been firmly entrenched in Asia-Pacific as part of the urban middle-class lifestyle," observed Dr. Yuwa Hedrick Wong, economic advisor to MasterCard International in Asia-Pacific.

Dr. Hedrick-Wong further pointed out that "personal travel has not only taken off in Asia, but the market is undergoing a dynamic process of segmentation. Observed trends in personal travel suggest that Asian travelers are coalescing into distinct market segments, each underpinned with different lifestyles and unique preferences, and businesses will be successful only if they can meet the challenge of market segmentation."

The survey report shows that intra-regional travel remains popular with both personal and business travelers. Personal travelers named destinations in Asia-Pacific

(84 percent) as their top choice for travel, above destinations in Europe (34 percent) and North America (26 percent).

Similarly for business travelers, destinations in the Asia Pacific (86 percent) emerged as being the most frequented, compared to destinations in Europe (13 percent) and North America (11 percent).

Mirroring findings from the previous report, Japan and Australia continue to remain attractive destinations for personal travelers. Japan (28 percent vs 25 percent six months ago), however, edges slightly ahead of Australia (24 percent vs 27 percent six months ago) to become the most popular destination for personal travel for the six months ahead.

In terms of business travel, China (27 percent) and Singapore (20 percent) remain firmly entrenched as the most frequently visited destinations in Asia-Pacific.

The results also reinforce the growth of women in the personal travel space, 40 percent of females polled as compared to 34 percent of all male respondents have taken a personal trip in the past year.

Summer fun continues

SHANGRI LA PLAZA CORE has lined up activities for kids and the whole family with its "Summer @ The Shang" until May.

Activities include workshops by Shang's retail partners, fashion shows and cultural performances like concerts, book festival and dance recital.

Among those to be featured are the Samba-Likha Full Symphonic Band, May 6; San Miguel Master Chorale with the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra, May 13-14, and the Woodwind Quintet, May 21.

Children's fashion shows featuring the young models of Gingersnaps and Trumpets will be held May 7 and 28, respectively.

Call 633-7851 to 70.

Meanwhile Westgate Ala-

bang, presents "Ridez" on May 5, at Westgate Auto Center in Filinvest Corporate City, as part of its month-long "Motors in May" event, presented

in cooperation with Southside Custom.

A car show will feature young matinee idol Oyo Boy Sotto and his low-rider collection and the Southside Customs family's car collection.

An after-party event will feature Nathan J., Jocelyn, Miss Hawaiian Tropic 2004, Turbulence, Nimbus 9, Pakas and break dancers. DJs Phatboi and Kimozave will host

In the Poker Challenge, prizes will include wire wheel rims, discount coupons and gift certificates from Gameworx, and gift packs from sponsors.

Visit westgate.filinvest.com or call 8503516.

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Connecting a billion people

By Belle V. Bondoc

IT SEEMED AN UNLIKELY place for a lavish event. Though many of the over 400 guests from around the world might not have heard of Chongqing before, there was no doubt the city had heard of the event host, Nokia.

The world's leading phone-maker decided to launch its new entry phones in Chongqing, apparently as part of its effort to further strengthen its position in the country that has become its largest market globally.

The launch was attended by key executives from Nokia, network operators and retailers, as well as media representatives from different countries.

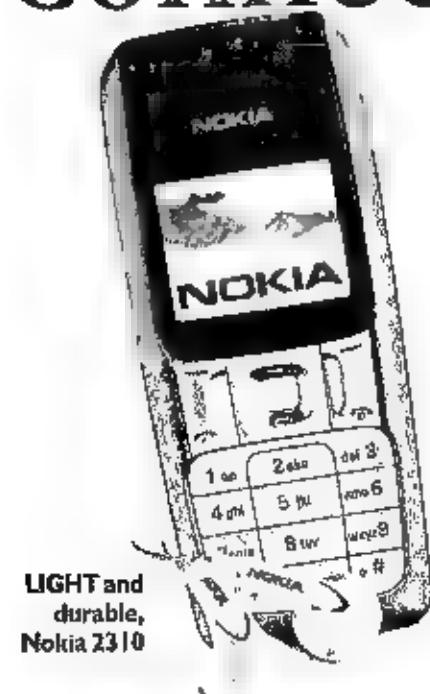
The cocktail party celebrating the theme of mobility and creative freedom was held under a gigantic tent, the luxurious setup



NOKIA executives Rauno Granath, Alex Lambeek and Antonio Torres

BELLIE BONDOC

Nokia's choice of a launch pad for its new phones reflects its goal to capture the huge China market



LIGHT and durable, Nokia 2310



giving guests that chi-chi Oscar red-carpet feel, complete with spotlights and paparazzi.

The Finnish company still sees a lot of potential in China though Nokia "has become the clear leader for mobile handset," said Soren Petersen, SVP for Entry Business Unit.

A 2005 survey conducted by Nokia showed sales volume for mobile phones in China increasing by 72 percent, with 32.5 billion units sold, solidifying China's position as the brand's largest market globally.

Nokia is projecting a 36-percent growth in its global subscribers' market in 2008, reaching three billion from last year's 2.2 billion.

"Asia Pacific and China will account for 50 percent of the estimated growth," said Alex Lambeek, VP for Apac Mobile Phones, sales and market operations.

The market growth is probably due to the fact that Nokia has managed to remain at the forefront of innovative design and quality products, making it one of the most trusted mobile phone brands worldwide.

Evolving

Nokia products continue to evolve, its designs aimed at satisfying the ever-changing needs of consumers, providing almost everyone with the ideal phone for his or her lifestyle.

Thus, Nokia's design team is always faced with a challenge. Each generation of Nokia products has to have a higher level of usefulness, comfort and performance to keep consumer satisfaction at the highest level.

Nokia phones are designed for ease of use and learning. These qualities are evident in the three entry phones launched in Chongqing, made especially for first-time and low-income consumers.

"The new growth market includes those who never had mobile phones before, [really] first-time users," said Lambeek. "Primarily, people in most parts of China and India."

To get these people connected, the new Nokia entry phones have also been made more affordable.

The company's market research shows a big percentage of the population in the new growth markets earns US\$50-100 a month. These people are willing to use only five to 10 percent of their monthly salaries to get a mobile phone.

Antonio Torres, director for business development and industry marketing, said that "for low-income consumers, our [main] objective is to reduce the total cost of mobile phone ownership to US\$5 per month, while ensuring a profitable and sustainable business models for operators and retailers."

Entry phones

The Nokia design team had to create something exciting to cater to the needs of these new growth markets. They came up with the three new models scheduled for release anytime soon.

The Nokia 2310 is for music lovers, particularly young and stylish individuals. It has an FM radio shortcut key and radio over hands-free speaker, polyphonic and MP3-grade ring tones.

The phone is enhanced with an SMS editor to avoid accidental deletions of messages as well as a speed dial for SMS sending.

The Nokia 2610 has a voice-recording function. It is equipped with MP3 ring tones and has an integrated hands-free speaker. It

CONNECTING/G3

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006

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2207 (Globe) or 263 (Smart)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ED

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Once 'lost sheep' is now a 'shepherd'

Text and photos
by Linda B. Bolido

THEY ARE PARENTS AND children, executives and laborers, professionals and students. Drug users no longer lend themselves easily to profiling. They span age groups, social and economic status.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) reported last year that at least two million Filipino workers were hooked on illegal drugs and the number was rapidly rising. Some 30 percent of the estimated 6.7 million drug users throughout the country were young and educated, according to Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson.

So widespread is the problem of drug use and abuse that there is no telling who suffers from it.

Before he entered the seminary, Fr. Flavi was among those people whose troubles seemed too much to bear. The altar boy turned to drugs to escape. But, like others before him, he realized when he got hooked that his "solution" only compounded his problems.

Now a full-fledged priest, Fr. Flavi is helping others like him heal themselves. He is the spiritual director of The Rising Phoenix Foundation Inc., a therapeutic center for the treatment and rehabilitation of substance dependency and other related disorders, in Tagaytay City.

Prepared

Fr. Flavi thinks his descent into the sordid world of drug abuse helped prepare him for his current role as spiritual adviser of substance users, as well as his other priestly duties.

He is much more able to relate to laymen, better able to understand the struggle they have to wage to survive and cope with life's difficulties. After all, if a man, whose faith is strong enough to lead to priesthood, can succumb to the false promise of bliss offered by drugs, how much chance is there for troubled souls with weak spiritual grounding?

The new priest is one of several reformed substance abusers involved in the center's rehabilitation work. To Fr. Flavi, three of the founders of the center, and several staff members, the oft-repeated saying "been there, done that," is not just a criticism. They have really been there and done that—drug use and abuse—so they know whereof they speak.

They are alumni of different rehab centers, some have even gone facility-shopping, so to speak, unable to find exactly the kind of help they need.

Empathy

Recovering dependents José María Diaz, Bernard I. Termulo and Oliviere T. Belmonte, who founded Phoenix together with Eduardo P. Rocha and Fernando M. David, do not promise a miracle cure but they can guarantee professional care from experts and trained personnel, understanding, compassion and, best of all perhaps, empathy for those who seek the center's help.

The foundation runs a rehabilitation center, Phoenix Ridge, at 6275 JP Rizal Ave., Mendez Crossing East, Tagaytay City.

One important aspect of the center's rehabilitation program is getting the parents, the whole family and even the community involved. After all, drug users will not return to a vacuum after rehabilitation. They have to reconnect with family, friends, society. A less than welcoming home and less supportive community can undo whatever progress they may have made.

For one young Phoenix resident, at least, just reopening communication lines with his family is already significant. "I stopped talking to my father a long time ago," the boy said. But with Phoenix making the family a very important participant in the rehabilitation process, the boy said he finally talked to his father again, openly and candidly, holding very little back. A huge weight was lifted off his shoulder and now he knows there is a loving home to return to when he completes the

Phoenix program.

Like the mythological bird that burns itself completely then rises again from its ashes, stronger and more beautiful, Phoenix Foundation wishes the same for drug users under its care.

The Rising Phoenix Foundation Inc. is at 2/F, 209 Aguirre Ave., BF Homes, Parañaque City. Call 8266166 and 8258604. E-mail phoenix5@yahoo.com

PHOENIX Ridge, the rehabilitation center in Tagaytay City, is more a home than an institution for its wards.



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SUNSET at idyllic Dive Solana

MY LOVE AFFAIR WITH the underwater world started more than 15 years ago. As a single mom then, I spent weekends either scuba diving with friends or searching for bigger fish in the "happening" scene of Malate. In that era, Greenbelt and the Fort were still grasslands, and the hippest gadget was the pager!

With my Assumption High School best friend Tessa Alindogan, we took scuba-diving lessons with instructor Gigi Santos (contact 0917-8333663), who is also the instructor of President GMA and who will finally open her own dive shop—the Pacifica Dive Center in Alabang. I instantly got hooked on scuba, from the pool sessions to our final checkout dive in Anilao, Batangas.

Of my original group, I was the one who became totally passionate about diving. I started dressing like a typical Japanese diver with neon colors and matching gear. I bought tanks with neon-colored mesh and tank bangers in the most luminous shades.

Diving in style was my motto. I figured that to be one with the amazingly colorful myriad of marine life, shocking colored wetsuits were in order.

There's just no stopping progress in other ways! From tech advances in scuba gear to the quality of the roads going to Anilao, diving has only gotten better. In 15 years of diving, I not only met my scuba instructor/husband Dennis (he actually taught Gigi to dive) but I have become the reigning Sea Princess.

Thus, there was no way I could say no when instructor Joel Ulricho asked me to attend the MAD About US photo contest. The

TESSA!*Tessa
Prieto-
Valdes*

Diving in style was my motto. I figured that to be one with the amazingly colorful myriad of marine life, shocking colored wetsuits were in order



ANILAO sailors Ichay and Raul Bulaong



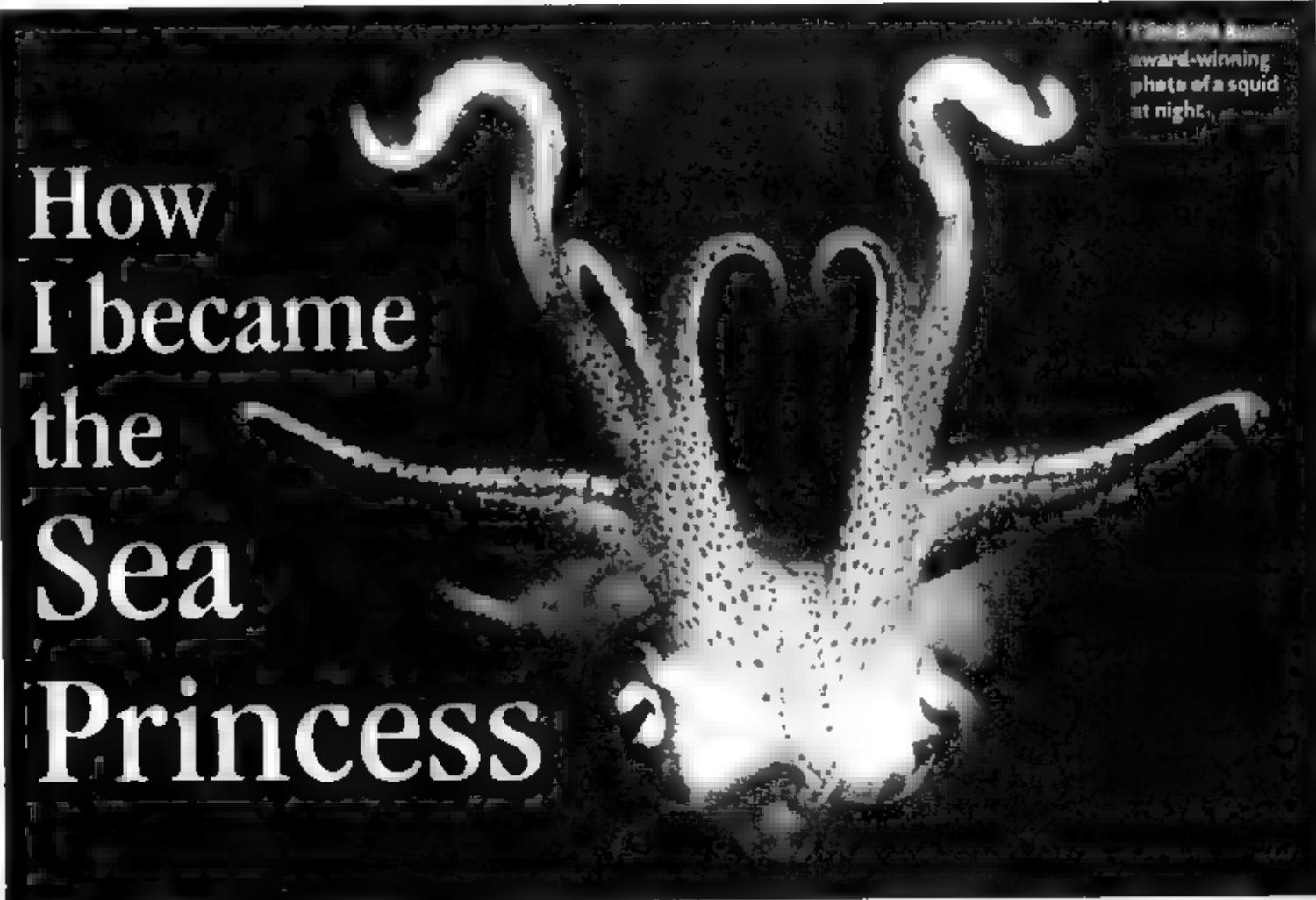
BEA Zobel Jr. uses Philippine-made handicrafts throughout the resort.



AYALA Museum guest Philip Cu-unjeng, museum head Nita Baker, AFM director Olivier Dintlinger and Yves Sabourin, curator of the Christian Lacroix "Dialogues!"



GIANNI Montinola, Lizzie Zobel, Sowine Mallie and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala



How I became the Sea Princess



PRINCE of Philippine Fashion Inno Sotto surrounded by his stunning models



DYNAMIC Rajo Laurel poses with his muses after his show.

full name of the event is a mouthful—the Mabini-Tingloy Digital Underwater Shootout—and its mission is to make people mad enough about underwater conservation, developing resources to protect the sea and providing training and livelihood to the local area residents.

Underwater tourism is the big winner of the contest, of course! An international cast of participants entered the photo contest. The "Best in Show Category," which won a trip to Tubbataha on board the Tri-Sar, was won by German Torben Böhm with his dramatic photo of a squid.

To give a fair chance to all levels of photographers, Joel got renowned underwater photographers like Gutsy Tuason, Marissa Florendo, Dodo Cu-unjeng and Yvette Lee to be the judges. Gutsy and Dodo's photography book called "Anilao" (available in all major bookstores) has won the Photography Book plam at the Phil. National Book Awards and the Grand Prize for Books at the World Festival of Underwater Images in Antibes, France.

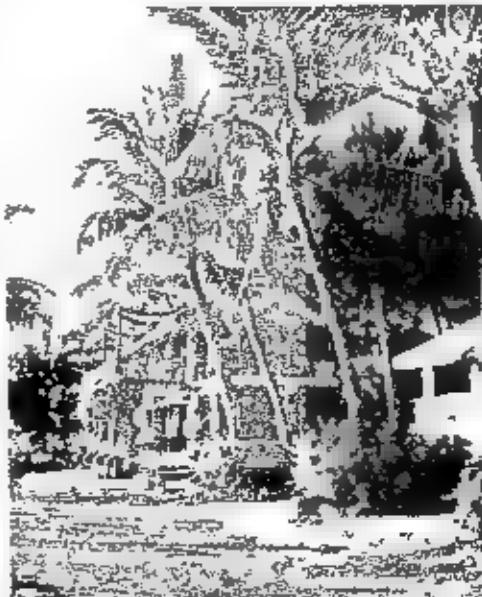
The contest was launched last month at Eagle Point Resort. Expert diver and conservationist Joel's premiere goal was to raise funds to train and develop world-class local dive masters, dive guides and tourism workers.

Much to offer

Just recently, relaxingly beautiful Dive Solana (contact 0912-3400392) hosted several underwater photographers from National Geographic to document nudibranchs. Anilao has indeed so much to offer and with its close proximity to Manila, donning your gear and jumping into the water is just too easy.

Sponsored by STI of Tanauan and Batangas City, Globe Wireless and supported by various resorts in Mabini, the contest had a successful beginning. This year, on May 10 and 11, the first fruit of the contest will be ready—a seminar in underwater gunding, titled "Livelihood from Gunding Underwater Photographers." Nonoy Tan has unselfishly offered his time and expertise for this endeavor.

Dive Solana was leased by former Inquirer



DIVE Solana features homey villas by the beach.



LEARN French at Alliance Française's "Fun French Summer" until May 19.

columnist Bea Zobel Jr. and Joel. Together they converted it into an upscale resort with all the wonderful ethnic touches. The homey feel provided by picture frames, embroidered bedspreads, decorative murals and seascapes artwork make anyone's stay in this resort so pleasant.

According to Bea, most of the furnishings

were made in the different regions of the Philippines, and the best part is, the resort has a little corner shop so visitors can bring home some items.

Packed show

I have been encouraging my mainstay fashion designer Rajo Laurel to get into diving for the numerous colorful inspirations he can get. At the recent Runway Productions' Philippine Fashion Week '06, Rajo had a solo premier fashion show of his collection shown abroad.

His loyal clients packed the NBC Tent to view his dynamic collection. In any fashion emergency, Rajo always comes to my rescue. For the latest haute-couture show of Inno Sotto, Rajo converted one of his long ball skirts into an empire-cut gown for me in less than an hour.

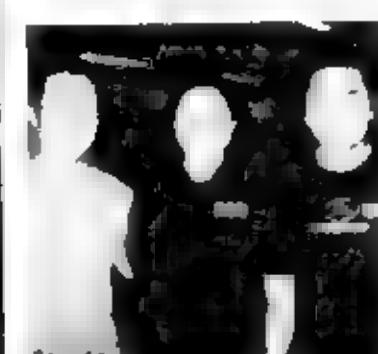
Just as I sat down at the mile-long fashion ramp at the Tower One & Exchange Plaza Garden, the show opened with perfectly tailored, bright ensembles with floral cutouts and voluminous gowns in vibrant colors. The brilliance and genius of Inno once again shone throughout the evening.

Even if the summer evening was hot and humid, I felt so fresh, having come in just in time for the show. Thanks to super gentleman editor Anton San Diego, we even got the best seats in the garden.

Fashion is what this month is all about. At the Ayala Museum, the art exhibit featuring Christian Lacroix Haute Couture is ongoing until the first week of May. For anyone interested in arts and fashion, this is a must-see exhibit brought here by the Alliance Française de Manille, in partnership with the French Embassy.

With so many options for activities for kids this summer, I would recommend a second language. Teach a kid before the age of 13 and he is likely to speak it like a native. This summer, check out the Alliance Française (contact 8957585 or 8957441) for kids' courses in French. Bonne journée!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.



MAD About US judges Dodo Cu-unjeng, Marissa Florendo and Gutsy Tuason



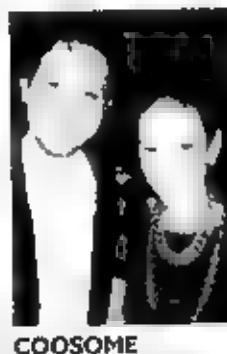
AVID divers Berta and Ting Feliciano



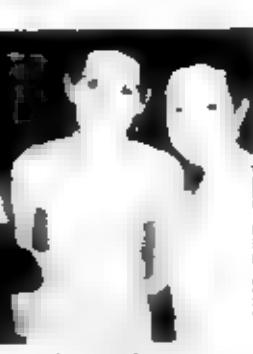
ANILAO homeowners Marlyn and Tony Liles



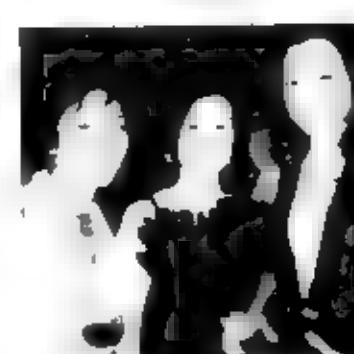
UPCOMING Cebu designer Ronald Vilaluz and Runway Productions' Joey Espino Jr.



COOSOME twosome Archie Rodriguez and Bea Valdes



PEARL lovers Margarita Delgado, Lizzie Zobel and Mia Borromeo



MALU Gamboz, Nina Garcia and Mandy Santos



DIVE Solana owners Bea Zobel Jr. and Joel Ulricho



FUN and fab Sofia and Paxti Elizalde

An evening of romantic piano with Ingrid Santamaria

THE CEBU-BASED PEACE Philharmonic of the Philippines (PPP) opened its 2006 concert season with a full house at the Atlantic ballroom of the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel.

It was dubbed "Romanticism and the Piano" as it featured three composers of that era: Richard Wagner, Frederick Chopin and Edward MacDowell. The latter was the first US-born composer to be considered an equal of his European contemporaries.

On this occasion, the PPP was conducted by maestro Eugene Castillo, of Filipino descent but born and raised in California. He is now the music director and principal conductor of the Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) in Manila. A round of applause greeted him as he mounted the podium for the first number, Wagner's "Siegfried Idyll." Wagner wrote it as a surprise birthday gift for his wife, Cosima Liszt.

Dr. Ingrid Sala Santamaria, PPP's artistic director, was featured in the concert's next two highlights as piano soloist. First was Chopin's Concerto No. 1 in E Minor. Ingrid had specially commissioned the arrangement to professor Jeffrey Solares, the PPP's director for studies and current resident conductor of the PPO in Manila.

The accompaniment was performed by the PPP's string quartet of which Jeffrey is a member. The rest are multi-awarded members of the PPP, like violinists Brian Cimafronca and Sara Gonzalez, and cellist Gerry Gonzalez. They are all based in Manila now for their studies and frequently perform on special occasions and events.

MacDowell's Piano Concerto No. 2 in D Minor was the grand finale. The PPP did full justice to this wondrous composition. Ingrid excelled herself in virtuosity and passion which, along with great dexterity, are requirements to render this concerto at its best.

There was a standing ovation when it concluded, with shouts of "bravo" and "encore" from the enthusiastic audience, estimated at around 1,000. There stood Ingrid, ethereally beautiful, regal in a violet terno, and one sensed she had something to say: "We will do an encore, the second movement."

The kudos were as much for maestro Castillo, Dr. Ingrid, professor Jeffrey, Brian, Sara and Gerry as they were for everyone who performed that evening. They were the following:

First violins—Princess Christine Ybañez, Ebb Lawrence Galindo, Joseph Franz Lanzaderas, and Melissa Cipres; second violins—Marie Antoinette Gorgonio (she happens to have a nice singing voice), Reggie Marie Parajes, Nigel Abarquez, Adrian Beltran and Jun-Rey Parajes; violas—Joseph Patrick Balo and Genevieve Galindo; cellos—Jibbie Rose Reyes and Ma. Doris Malaque; bass—Virgilio Ylaya; flutes—Martin Alvarez and Sheila Tapispisan; oboe—Nino Benares; bassoon—Ariel Perez and Magno Aquino; horns—Mark Melecio and Basilio Sable; trumpet—Reydon Encinares; trombone—Bjorn Gaviola; and keyboards—Joseph Abella.

Intense summer

Though she is not a performer, credit is due Cora Quinay who is with the administrative staff of the Salvador and Pilar Sala Foundation whose headquarters at the old Sala mansion is home to the PPP. Ingrid founded the organization in 1991 to honor her parents who had inspired her and her siblings in their dedication to art and culture, especially music.

This is an intense summer for the PPP as it holds its annual summer camp for young musicians, interspersed with performances to evaluate their progress. Part of the activities is attendance to the PPP concert season.

After the opening concert, there was another show titled "The Reason We Sing," featuring the Reach Singing Ambassadors. Held at SM City Cebu's spacious Theater One, professor Robert del Rosario conducted. Guests were soprano Lisa Cabahug and tenor Nolyn Cabahug. Co-presenter was the Grace Baptist Church to mark the 28th biennial conference of the Association of Fundamental Baptist Churches in the Philippines.

The last concert of the season was dedicated to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, whose 250th birthday is being celebrated throughout 2006. This time, Solares conducted the PPP. In the program was Mozart's delightful Symphony No. 40 and Mendelssohn's Octet, for a very good reason. Mendelssohn's classicism is most often compared to that of Mozart.

The PPP String Quartet based in Manila has given itself a name: Quarteto Espresso. That created the need for a Cebu-based string quartet, now formed by Lawrence Galindo and Princess Christine Ybañez, violins 1 and 2, respectively; Joseph Franz Lanzaderas, viola, and Jibbie Rose Reyes, cello. They gave a beautiful recital all their own at the well-appointed auditorium of the Marcelo Fernan Cebu Press Center.

Of interest to Ingrid's fans here and abroad is a forthcoming book on her by excellent biographer Chit de la Torre who came to Cebu for the PPP's opening concert. She did some interviews with people who

The pianist excelled herself in virtuosity and passion which, along with great dexterity, are requirements to render the concerto at its best

have known Ingrid through the years, and has promised to be back two or three times more.

What comes to mind first and foremost about Ingrid? For the people of Cebu, she has brought the province its golden era of music, from the time she started creating a youth symphony to its flowering as a full philharmonic group.



DR. INGRID Sala Santamaria with the Manila-based PPP String Quartet, which calls itself Quarteto Espresso. From left: Brian Cimafronca, Sara Gonzalez, Ingrid, Gerry Gonzalez and Jeffrey Solares

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PDI-BLSS-SPEEDO FAMILY SUMMER SWIMMING PROMO

Winners to get free swimming lessons



THE APRIL 23 winning family—Julia, Maribeth, Mario and Jose Mari Cruz

THE BETAN FAMILY OF DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY, and Cruz family of Pasay City are the winners in the PDI-BLSS-Speedo Family Summer Swimming Promo for April 16 and 23, respectively.

Both families will get free swimming lessons from BLSS and swimwear and swimming gear from Speedo.

The Betan family of AA4-104 Hardin ng Rosas, University of the Philippines Diliman, consists of Ariel, Sierra Ma. and Sharon, who sent the winning entry.

The Cruz's entry was sent by Maribeth C. Cruz. The family is composed of, aside from Maribeth, Mario, Julia and Jose Mari.

Winners can claim their prizes at BLSS, 2401 Teyeron St., Sta. Ana, Manila, tel. 0917-700SWIM(7946), 5891982, 563-5532, 5628041.



THE APRIL 16 winning family—Sierra Ma., Sharon and Ariel Betan



(FRONT ROW) Bobby Gonzales, Susan Medina, Danny Dimayuga, and Gerry Bautista, (back row) Analyn Lorayes, Guan Medina, Cynthia Cervantes and Boy Cervantes

Celebrating life, rhythm and good neighborliness

"DESPITE THE CHALLENGES THAT COME our way, this is our time," says Barangay Bel-Air's creative consultant, Susan Medina. "So let's make the most out of each moment."

It is this steadfast optimism that inspired the Bel-Air community's highly anticipated Pasinaya festival for 2006. With the theme "Panahon Natin, Ritmo Natin," the festival not only celebrates the Filipinos' world-renowned sense of rhythm, it also celebrates life and community spirit at its best.

"Approximately 300 residents spanning four generations will be participating in one way or another," says barangay captain Constance Lichauco. "And more are participating each year. While other communities are thinking of ways to get their members to take part, we are worrying about how to accommodate all the people. But that is a problem we are happy to solve."

Indeed, Bel-Air residents will be in full force this year. Kicking off the celebrations on May 6 are five fiesta bands that will be going around the neighborhood to provide every one a festive wake-up call.

All roads will then lead to Bel-Air's multi-purpose center for the formal opening ceremonies, followed by the partaking of hearty bowls of rice porridge during the Lugawan sa Bel-Air.

Guests and residents alike can score interesting finds at the bazaar as well as treat themselves to a wide variety of culinary treats at the Food Fest. Tired from all that walking? Then take a trip back in time with the free Kalesa rides prepared specially for the event.

After lunch, watch 40 budding models ages 12 and below showcase children's clothing from Orange Juice. Artists in the making will also be mentored by the respected Saturday Group amid the greens of Bel-Air, and participate in an art contest.

After the anticipated Mass comes the Youth Night, where some of the country's hottest bands will be rocking with Bel-Air's young and young at heart.

Residents pay tribute to their beloved dogs with a canine show on May 7, followed by the exciting Kasanib Binggo, the first prize winner of which brings home P50,000!

Ending the event on a high note will be the cultural night, the culmination of four months of conceptualization and preparation.

Written and directed by Floy Quintos and choreographed by Andrew Ferranz, 220 residents will be dancing to various OPM tunes through the years, ranging from Bobby Gonzales' "Hahabot-habot," Yoyoy Villame's "Butchiklik," to the chart-topping hits of Gary Valenciano.

"Each song will be given a modern twist," says Medina. "It's the first time that most of the participants will be onstage. But they gave it their all during rehearsals, so rest assured that it will be a show to look forward to."

"Practicing twice a week for six weeks has brought everyone closer to one another," says Lichauco. "The show provides everyone with a sense of belonging."

"Rehearsals are also a way for the children to get to know one another and establish friendships," she adds. "These are what their memories of growing up in Bel-Air would be made of."

At the end of the day, this is what the Pasinaya has aimed for ever since it was organized in 1993: to foster a strong bond among the residents.

"The most important outcome of this festival is what we can't see with our eyes," says Lichauco. "It is the solid community structure that we are able to build over the years."

Bel-Air will soon be immortalized via a coffee-table book entitled "The Bel-Air Heritage Book," which will be released in time for Bel-Air's 50th year in 2007. Jaime Laya and Alya Honasan are some of the writers documenting the community's admirable history.

Pasinaya 2006, Panahon Natin, Ritmo Natin is a collaborative effort of Barangay Bel-Air Cultural Committee headed by kagawad Victor Gomez, Bel-Air Village Association, Makati Commercial Estate Association and the Women of Bel-Air. On May 6 and 7, come and discover what Bel-Air living is all about!



BEL-AIR'S "Butchiklik" kids

New

RUSH Fitness Water

Just right for everyday fitness!

You don't have to be an athlete to need fitness and energy. Everyday life is filled with activities that require both!

Climbing stairs, running to a meeting or even tossing things to a friend are the workouts of everyday life. Without the right level of fitness, doing these ordinary physical activities could leave you tired and winded.

Get the right amount of everyday fitness and energy from all new RUSH Fitness Water!

Feel the RUSH! It's not as heavy as a sports drink.

New RUSH Fitness Water is a uniquely cool product. It's not for hardcore athletes because unlike any other specialized sports drink, RUSH Fitness Water is specifically made to help the average person recharge throughout the day to better meet the challenges of an active, stressful life.

It has less salt than ordinary sports drinks and contains electrolytes - such as sodium and potassium ions - to replenish those body fluids that you lose.

RUSH Fitness Water keeps energy and hydration in perfect balance all day. So you stay in top physical and mental condition everyday!

Addicted to the RUSH! It's better than ordinary water.

Light flavored and non-carbonated, RUSH Fitness Water has a more appealing taste than plain water. With more electrolytes than purified water, it keeps the body better hydrated as it provides a more energizing refreshment!

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Get a RUSH everyday!

RUSH Fitness Water is for people who live regular lives filled with activity. It's for the student who has to run to class then to an org meeting and back again. It's for the executive who has to dash from one meeting to another. It's for the regular Joe who has to run around town, pulling his own weight to succeed in his own field.

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RUSH to your favorite store! It's only P17!

RUSH Fitness Water is a totally new and exciting way to quench everyday thirst. It's available in your favorite convenience stores and supermarkets at the very reasonable price of P17 for a 500 mL bottle!

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For everyday fitness, take something that's just right and feel the RUSH!

More electrolytes than water.

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Kennevic Asuncion:
National Badminton Champion

Kennie Asuncion
National Badminton Champion

**Just
right
for
everyday
fitness**

**Keeps energy and hydration in perfect balance all day.
So you stay in top physical and mental condition everyday!**

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Sunday
LIFESTYLE

Small pleasures

6
7
8
9
10
11



Wanderlust pages

/12

Garden of angels

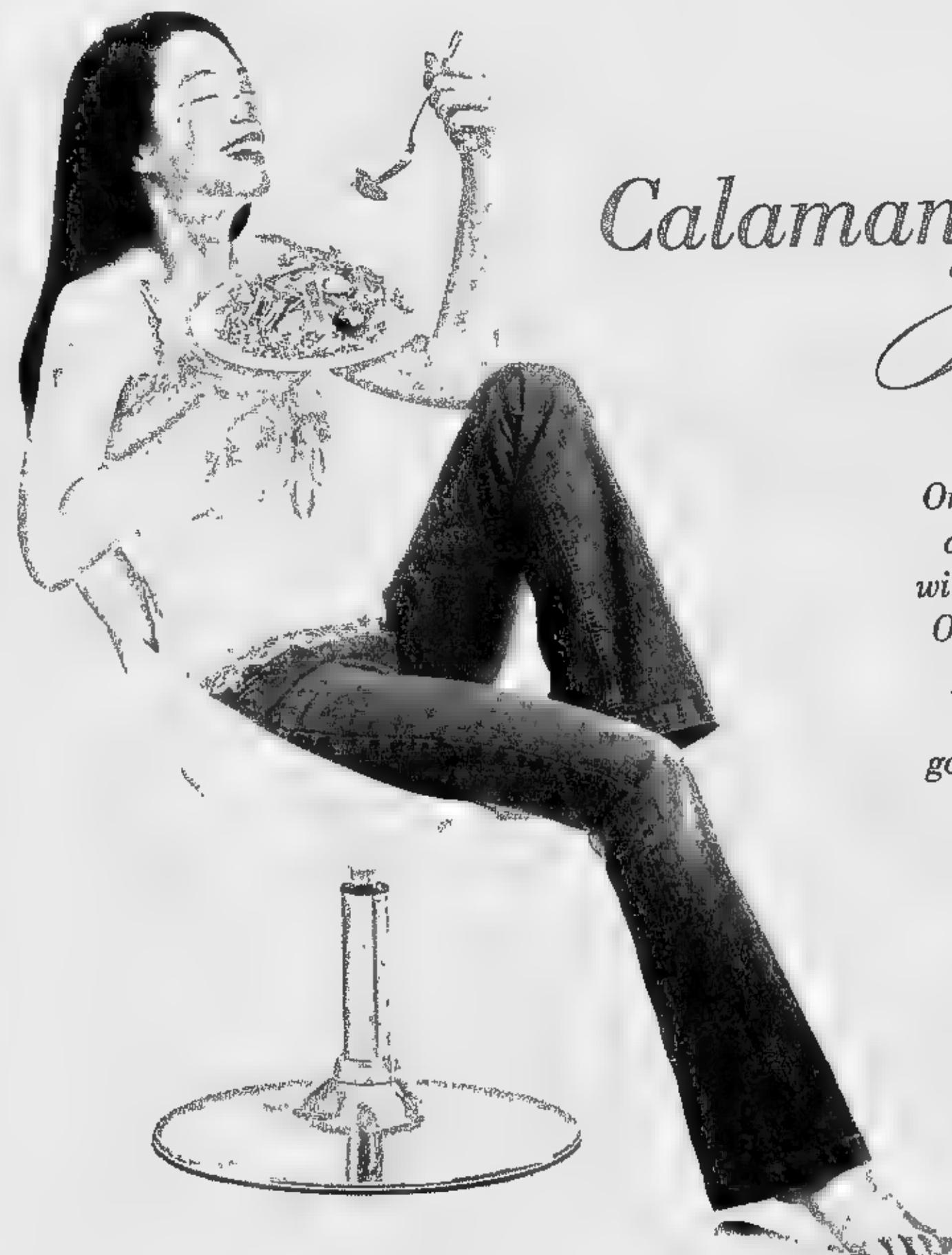
/14

Summer dreams

/17

Weekend guide

/18



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the Supermeat



MIRRORS become predictable elements without the use of a recessed wall and artwork.

Limited space, utmost living

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

WHEN JOSE AND JOSEFINA "Josie" Lanuza bought a one bedroom condo unit at the Shang Grand Tower (tel. 6348111 or 6348080) in Makati last year, their main concern was maximizing the 80-sq m unit that would serve as their refuge upon their return to Manila from San Francisco.

The consideration wasn't there when the couple decorated their West Coast home so they did away with the services of an interior designer. But in Manila, Josie made sure everything would be different from her "French-inspired" San Francisco home.

To achieve her vision of a retirement home with "contemporary" interiors, she hired the services of interior designers Tam Gutierrez and Rachel Laceda.

"Since my husband and I still live in the US," says Josie, "it would have been impossible for us to work on the unit and monitor its progress."

After making a list of her requirements, Josie left everything to Gutierrez and Laceda, who happen to be twin sisters. They kept the Lanuzas updated every step of the way via e-mail and long-distance calls. It took the duo a little over a month to finish the project.

"Mrs. Lanuza's major requirements were a nice, homely and fuss-free unit," said Gutierrez. "Other than that, she left everything to us. When she saw the finished product, she didn't have anything changed."

On top of putting the finishing touches on an empty shell of a unit, the sisters also designed the furniture pieces and had them made by the furniture factory that has been owned by their family even before they became designers.

In fact, almost every furniture piece in the house was made to measure and can be knocked down for easier handling. The compact pieces were designed, said Gutierrez, with a condo unit's limited space in mind.

One of their main concerns, of course, was how to maximize space. Apart from placing mirrors in strategic areas of the house such as the dining area and lone bedroom, they limited the color palette to earth tones for a warm yet streamlined look.

Mahogany and wenge-stained furniture pieces echo the color of valances, shelves, showcases and a wall-mounted entertainment center. To put Asian flavor to the contemporary setting, the sisters incorporated bamboo accents in a number of chairs. A series of valances that framed the bedroom window mimics the printed curtains below.

Powder room

Since decades of living in California have taught the couple to do without a maid (at

least for now), they had the maid's quarters adjacent to the kitchen converted into a powder room.

For this purpose, the sisters knocked down a portion of the living room wall to make way for a space-saving sliding door, which, in turn, leads to the new powder room. The sisters designed a wenge-finished dresser to go with the area, but decided to retain the mini-bathroom that came with it.

They also retained the unit's wooden floors, but refurbished walls with textured

and washable wallpaper. Such an enhancement, Gutierrez admitted, was a bit pricey. But it dramatically helped make the place look interesting and less predictable.

"I could have simply used more mirrors to make the unit appear more spacious than it really is," Gutierrez added. "But that would have made the place, especially the bedroom, look predictable."

For example, the sisters kept a pair of mirrored panels confined to both sides of the bedroom wall. Not only is the middle section of the wall recessed and covered with washable paper, it also comes with a series of lights hidden beneath the headboard to illuminate an impressionist oil painting by an unknown artist.

In fact, almost all the generic-looking room pieces were done by virtual unknowns. One telltale sign that the unit has yet to be furnished is the absence of accent pieces on a number of shelves and showcases.

Lights also play an important role in the overall scheme of things. Both living room and bedroom have dropped ceilings equipped with mood lighting systems.

Despite their attempts to tweak established design norms, the sisters didn't stray far from the hotel look. A number of furniture and accent pieces found in the bedroom, for example, come in pairs: armchairs, side tables with pull-out trays, and lamp shades.

Indeed, the look was what their clients ordered: modern, streamlined and low-maintenance. This early, Josie and her husband are already looking forward to a peaceful and worry-free retirement in Manila years from now.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



BAMBOO accents on chairs infuses the unit's contemporary look with an Asian flavor.

GRACEFUL sculptural pieces liven up this corner of the house.



GRACEFUL sculptural pieces liven up this corner of the house.

ENTERTAINMENT center and series of shelves are done in wenge finish to blend with the wall treatment.



DROP ceiling frames the living room and hides mood lighting fixtures.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006

Sunday LIFESTYLE



WELL-PLACED art frames provide pleasant visual stimulation, enliven bare walls and transform the room into a vision of a stylish home.

Opening up a cramped condo unit

CONDOMINIUM LIVING HAS gained popularity over the years. But the limited floor area poses a tough challenge for owners who want to turn their own units into homes that display their personal touch.

In some condominium, columns and beams make the possibilities even more limited. But the new A. Venue Residential and Hotel Suites (tels. 7572615/16 or visit www.anotel.com.ph) offers more options for decorating with its beam-less and column-free design.

A. Venue gives the following tips for decorating limited spaces:

- Visually enlarge the room with light paint. Employ visual tricks to make small space seem larger. Lighter paint increases the light values of a room making it appear bigger. Celadon or chamois color base, among others are recommended.

- Choose décor for focus. Pick interesting décor pieces and unique furniture. A carved arm chair, an oddly shaped vase, a lamp stand made from driftwood or a steel objet d'art are some possibilities. Check out flea markets, antique shops and ethnic product stores for that unique centerpiece décor.

- Balance your décor. Create an asymmetrical balance between large and small items in a room. Distribute décor pieces evenly so that no corner appears too crowded or heavy.

- Use area rugs to help expand floor area. Area rugs can help break the pattern and trick the eye into thinking a space is bigger than it really is. Lighter shades and simpler patterns are best. Rugs can also define the different areas of a room.

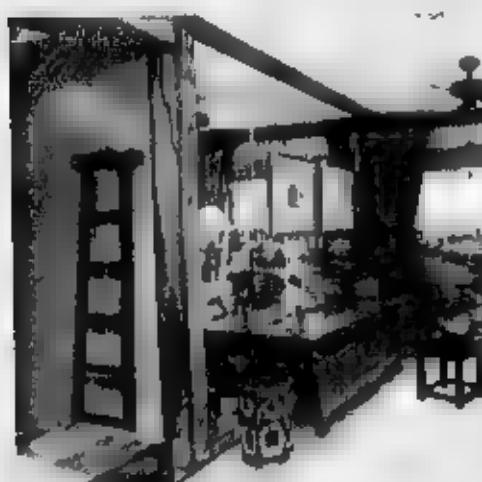
- Maximize walls. Hang artworks or picture frames since they draw the eye and provide visual stimulation.

Balance wall accents. Complement a large painting with a set of small ones and vividly colored art pieces with monochromatic photos for an interesting contrast.

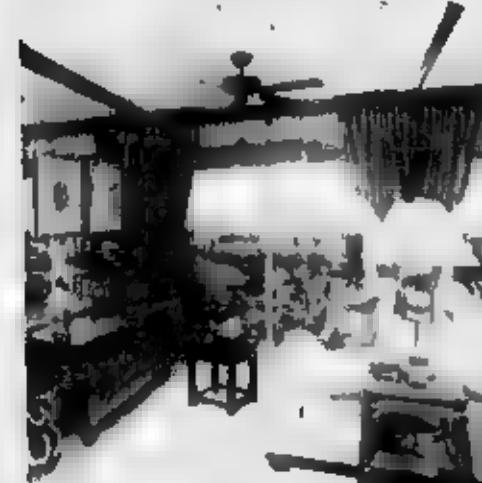
- Divert attention with vertical accents. Vertical pieces like tall vases, bamboo or cogon stick pieces, floor lamps or indoor plants can serve as focal points. These are best placed beside or behind a sofa set, or at corners to liven up dead spaces.

- Allow natural light to liven up the home. Use layered curtains to create different effects at various times of day. More light gives more life to any room.

The A. Venue Residences offers 356 one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom residential suites with beam-less and column-free design. The project is expected to be completed third quarter of 2007, including a new tower with 28 floors that will house the residential component of the complex.



ACCENT art pieces create focus for the eye, making the room feel larger and adding character, similar to the effect provided by the decorative ladder (above).



UTILIZING natural light as well as lighter paint is a simple yet effective technique to provide character and space in the limited area of the condo home.



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ON THE SAME DAY**



Natural green tea leaves

Not just powder.
Not just concentrates.
C2 contains pure, natural
green tea leaves perfectly brewed
to release their delicate flavor.

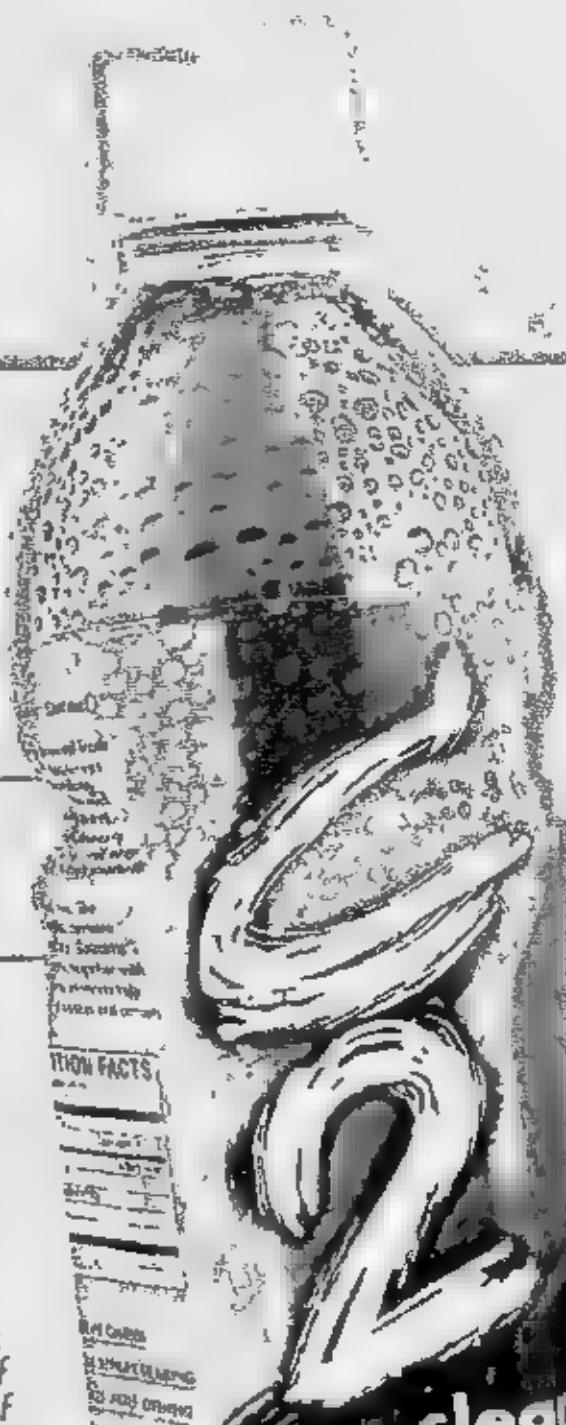
Catechins

C2 brews natural
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normally lost in other
extraction processes.

What you read is what you drink—all the goodness, the freshness and flavor of natural green tea leaves of the Camellia sinensis variety, brewed and bottled on the very same day only by C2 Green Tea!

C2 Green Tea is the only green tea drink that goes through the unique process of capturing the purest, most natural flavor of Green Tea so it gets to you the way it should.

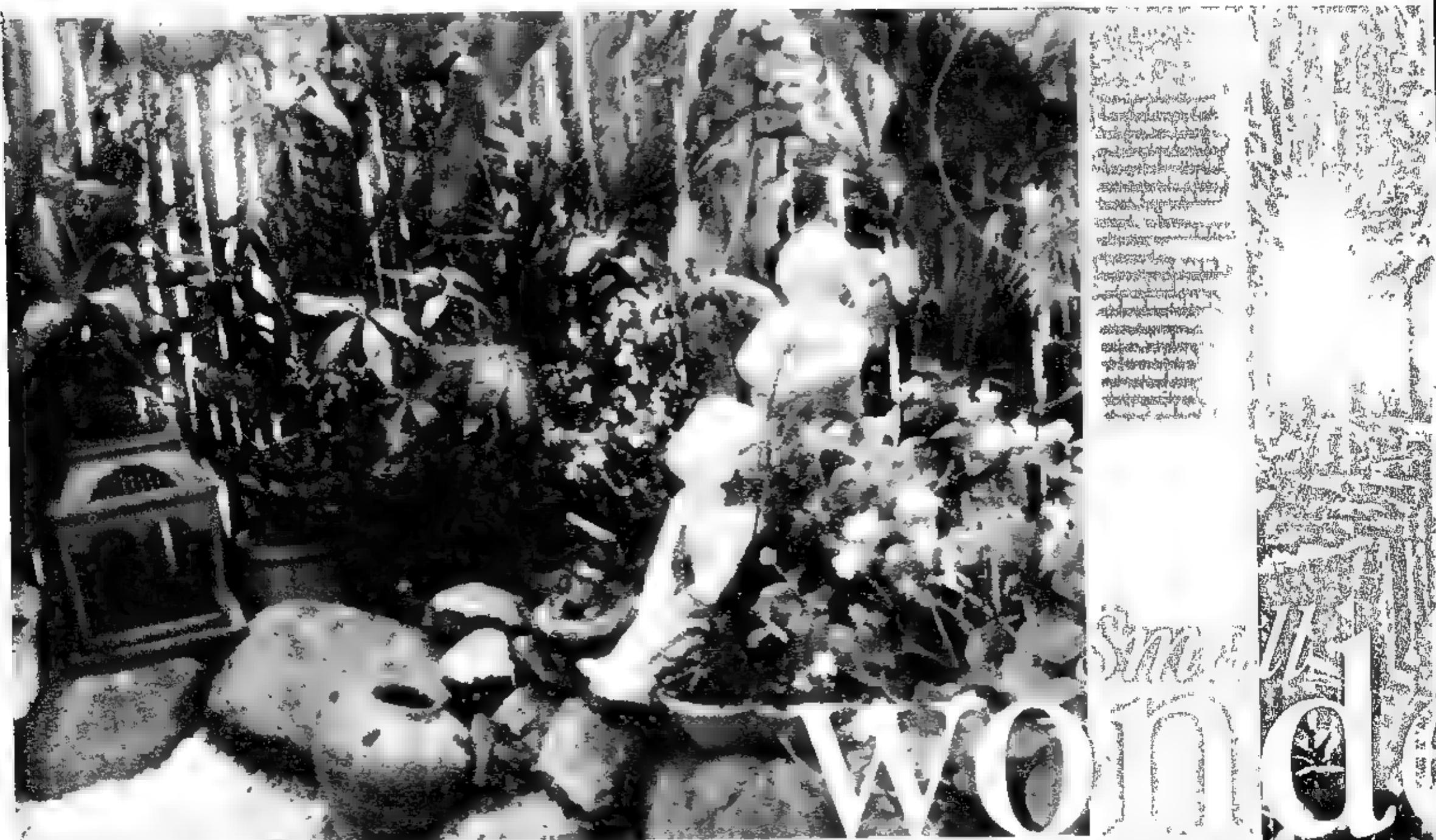
And that makes the C2 difference!



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Mandarin for
"brewed from natural
green tea leaves"





By Chelo Banal-Formoso

IT DIDN'T OCCUR TO ME THAT our meals could be made more pleasant just by changing the view from our dining room window until I happened to look up from reading the INQUIRER while having breakfast one morning.

Our old house has capiz windows that slide to the sides and give a full view of the outside. And what I saw that morning was an ugly backyard tableau. Trash bins filled to overflowing (when the garbage trucks come around to collect, I haven't the faintest idea). Clotheslines from which horrid-looking rags were hanging. Dirty laundry being sorted before being piled into washer. A concrete backwaal topped heiter skelter by barbed wiring to discourage the criminal elements. A storage area for our surplus junk. Next to it, the maids' bathroom with its door ajar (these girls seem to have no concept of a closed door). Not a pretty sight, I tell you, nor a pretty sight.

Household zen

Now, if you're thinking, "And this is the home of a lifestyle editor?" I can't blame you. If you want to know the truth, I can't cool either. There was a time when I wished I could have a glossy-mag type of home, spotless and clutter-free, but I got over the Martha Stewart complex when I realized my kids were traumatized by my yelling every time I found Bazooka gum stuck to the carpet. I've since become a huge fan of household zen. Why stress myself out if the roof is not falling? Why bother with curtains if the neighbors are not nosy? Why fret over the ironing if there are still clothes in the closet? That kind of zen.

But every now and then I do go through a "nesting" period (as opposed to my usual "floundering" period) and remember that I have a filial duty to keep a pleasant home for my mom, my husband and my kids. That's when I look around the house and get the urge to

makeover an area. One year it was the living room. Another time, it was the den. That morning that I looked out the window and saw a view more dismal than the page one news on the President, my nesting mode switched on.

My family needed something to block out all the ugly props of daily living that have appropriated our backyard and I knew the solution was simple: a garden. A pocket of green that would allow us to enjoy the space outside as much as we do the inside of our home. But how to create one in a backyard that has been poured over with concrete? Lorenz Inos, a low-key gardener who runs his own landscaping business in Nueva Ecija, had the answer.

Half-a-day job

Some people will warn you that a pocket garden doesn't happen overnight but that's because

they haven't met the Inos brothers. Ours took only half a day to set up. I would have said forget it had Lorenz suggested drilling and digging out the concrete flooring. I would have thrown the idea out the window had he said it would take 3-5 days. But he showed up at my door one day to look at the space, said the area was getting too much sun and promised to return another day. In a few weeks, he was back with his truck, crew and supplies.

Only half the backyard was going to be turned into a garden. We still needed the other half for doing the laundry. So Lorenz and his crew put up weathered wood slats to skirt the garden area.

To filter the sunlight into soft shade, Lorenz used a plastic netting material overhead. The dappled effect was beautiful.

Lorenz knew that in a small garden, just as in

a small house, the main concern was to maximize the available space. So he went for layering. He placed the large plants in the rear, the smaller ones in front. One huge plant and some shrub could have filled out our 9 x 8-ft enclosure but he chose instead a palette of tropical plants for a fascinating combination of leaf shapes—curly polypodium ferns, dieffenbachias, MacArthur palms, bromeliads, Schiefflera palms. For the three walls, Lorenz used Buhok ni Ester, Mangao Ka Irog and mountain ferns. To cover the concrete flooring, Lorenz scattered white pebbles. These helped make the small space look larger.

If you have the space and the time, you can, of course, have a theme for your garden—Italian, Japanese, English cottage. But since mine is so small, it's just a garden, period. Low maintenance, nothing formal, nothing fancy.

AFTERNOON sunlight filters For a dash of verticality, we pu

If you have a green thumb, time, by all means, create a pocket garden of your own (see sidebar). If you take the easier route like I did, make your pocket garden a there, it's all yours to jazz up!

Angels and frog

Mine looks so different now. Lorenz entrusted to me, I my garden so I have done without as I pleased. I've added stuff from my own wish! Angel statuary. The scene of a sanguinaria. Found object: A clay frog taking shelter under a clay leaf for an unexpected humorous touch. A string of lights for evening ambience.

To the white pebbles, I cover the concrete floor. I have added glass beads to sparkle in the sun and glow in the rain.

I am a horticultural dun so I can't identify the plants that we've bought to replace the ones that have died (as in a garden). I just think that with the right plants because heartbreakingly beautiful best the light dances and dazzling our angels' eyes.

I'm looking forward to



Free lectures on plants, flowers

EDSA GARDEN HOUSE AT EDSA corner Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, is hosting free livelihood-oriented lectures on plants, flowers and food technologies on weekends. Call 9293189, 9270510 or 7119633/36.

Seminars and speakers for May are:

May 4, 5-8 p.m.—Soap-making (powder, herbal, dish washing), Elma Ocrisma

May 5, 5-8 p.m.—Fundamentals of Horticulture 01, Ray Ong

May 6, 9-11 a.m.—Organic Agriculture, Agerico Valdez; Quality Food, Health, Lifestyle & Clean Environment, Eva Rose Pua; Making Food a Treat not a Threat

2-5 p.m., Basic Flower Arrangement, Pearl Banaag

May 7, 2-5 p.m.—Wedding Flowers, Banaag

May 8, 5-8 p.m.—Novelty Items, Ocrisma

Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. Kits will be available at P35 each for 25 registrants.

May 9, 5-8 p.m.—Perfume Making (cream, roll-on, cologne spray, etc.), Ocrisma

May 11, 5-8 p.m.—Balloon Arrangement, Raul Querubin

May 12, 5-8 p.m.—Fundamentals of Horticulture 02, Ong

May 13, 9-11 a.m.—Production of Organic Fertilizer and Natural Input, Renato Bayaca

2-5 p.m.—Flower Arrangement for Special Occasions, Banaag

May 14, 2-5 p.m.—Advanced Flower Arrangement, Nonito Gallo

May 15, 5-8 p.m.—Fruits and Vegetables Preservation, Ocrisma

May 17, 5-8 p.m.—Meat Processing 1 (skinless longganisa, tocino, hamburger patties and quick-cured ham), Ocrisma

May 18, 5-8 p.m.—Meat Processing 2 (embutido, corned beef, meat nuggets and siomai), Ocrisma

May 19, 5-8 p.m.—Fundamentals of Horticulture 3, Ong

May 20, 9-11 a.m.—Bio Intensive Vegetable Production, Ed Samaniego

2-5 p.m.—The Art of Gift Wrapping, Premy Eugenio

May 21, 2-5 p.m.—Candy Making (chocolate molding, no-cook pastilles and polvoron con queso), Ocrisma

May 22, 5-8 p.m.—Native Delicacies (puto, puto pao, kutsinta and pichi-pichi), Ocrisma

May 23, 5-8 p.m.—Jams and Jellies (pineapple jam, mango jam and homemade fruit cocktail), Ocrisma

May 26, 5-8 p.m.—Fundamentals of Horticulture 4, Ong

May 27, 9-11 a.m.—Organic Certification and Organic Agriculture, Valdez, Public Policy, Dr. Raffy Bar

2-5 p.m.—The Art of Gift Wrapping, Premy Eugenio

May 28, 2-5 p.m.—Candle Making, Ocrisma

May 31, 5-8 p.m.—Stuffed Toy Making, Ocrisma

Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. Kits are available at P100 each for 25 participants, who should bring their own pairs of scissors.

PLANTS cultured on rocks are put in bonsai pots.



By Seraphon S. Contributo

ROCK-CLASPIN plants, part of are indeed rare.

Some of the rocks are varieties of balsa (cereifera), the Angat bush (bantigue (Menziesia), and herbs of gillies (gilliesia) and

As to rocks, coral stones are rugged in appearance, so the roots penetrate easily those that moss.

The best time season when the plants say ed, at least for

Loosen the roots. Post on they are evenly manner.



Look through the slats of the bamboo and mangrove poles skirting the garden. It's in tall palms and hanging plants.

And you have the pocket garden on, don't fret and get someone to do it for you. Once it's

We do have a lot of hanging plants. No need to worry about hitting them with our heads because no one goes into the garden except to water. And this is one more reason why I so love this garden. We have used it to keep my son Gabriel engaged when otherwise he would have retreated into the invisible bubble that is both a blessing and a curse to an autistic boy like him. His former tutor, Edward Guinto, spent many an afternoon teaching him how to water the garden. It is obvious that this green space brings a feeling of well-being to my son, and I like to think he is returning the favor to the plants.

All I had wanted in the beginning was a pocket of green to give us something nice to gaze upon while dining. What I now have is a blessing.

E-mail the author at chformoso@inquirer.net



MY HEROES, Lorenz and Jon-Inos

act of life even in a garden looks so good when the leaves and returning the favor to the plants.

All I had wanted in the beginning was a pocket of green to give us something nice to gaze upon while dining. What I now have is a blessing.

E-mail the author at chformoso@inquirer.net

Metilla

FOR ROCK-GROWN

only those cultured as bonsai,

plants that can be cultured on rocks (more than 20 varieties),

candle trees (*Parmeniera*),

hystrix, *Serissa foemina*,

tilia (*Muntingia calabura*),

acidula),

lemonito (

bantotnao),

and ferns,

undo grass,

the best are volcanic and

they are water-absorbent and

durability, unlike smooth river

rocks of plants can easily cling

to only aged rocks, prefer-

ably already covered with

rocks during the rainy

years, rocks do not easily dry up,

but they should be fully root-

ed in soil or more long,

soil without damaging the

the roots in such a way that

they are distributed and in a clasping

GREEN TIPS

Apply clay soil all over the roots to make them stick. Cover all roots and rocks with moist sphagnum moss. To make sure the moss stays in place for at least six months or more, tie it tightly to the rock with a string or straw.

Put your rock in a bonsai pot with potting medium at the bottom. Tie the rock to the pot to keep it steady so it does not fall. Generously water immediately and place in a shady location.

You should water your new specimen twice or more daily. When new growths appear usually after three or more months, transfer the plant to a partially sunny place. After another month or so, move the plant to where it will get full sunlight. Leave the string and moss in the plant to rot.

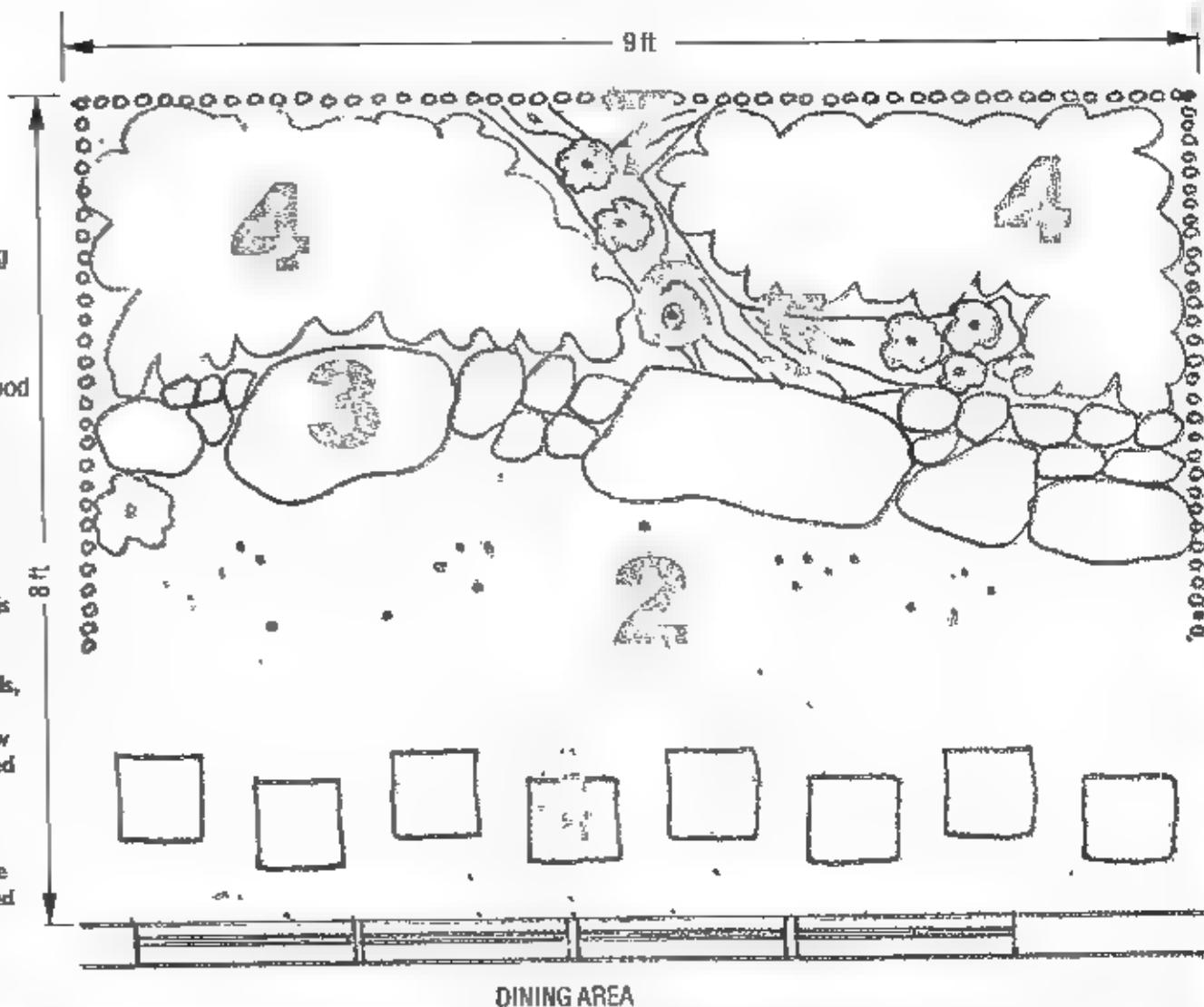
To make the balete or other trees artistic, train them in bonsai style. Prune unwanted branches and use wire to achieve the desired shape and look of an ancient miniaturized tree.

If you want to learn more about growing plants on rocks, check out schedules of semi-nar-workshops on bonsai culture and other plant arts.

Call this writer at 9394593 or 0917-8921352.

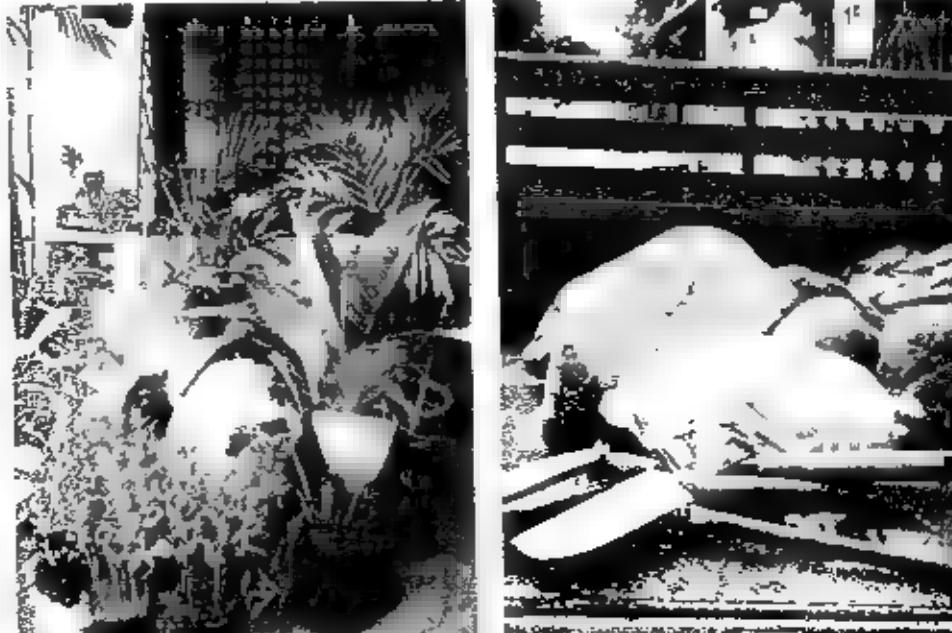
- KEY**
- 1 Steps
 - 2 Pebbles
 - 3 Boulders
 - 4 Mixed Planting
 - 5 Drift wood
 - 6 Bromeliads
 - 7 Weathered wood

ACCIDENTAL
gardeners will like this garden with its low-maintenance plants in pots. The focal point is a big driftwood on which are mounted orchids, ferns and bromeliads. Low plants are placed in the foreground, bordered by boulders. White pebbles are used as ground covering.



DINING AREA

Easy-does-it instant pocket garden



WHAT YOU NEED: Plants, of course. It's your choice—do you want to go for long-lasting plants or for color? Because your goal is an instant garden, your plants would have to be potted. Take care that the plant size is proportional to the container. You'll also need boulders, weathered wood, bamboo poles for walling, pebbles for ground covering, path pads, ladder, etc.

A GARDEN IS A PERSONAL place. There is no right or wrong way to style it.

Most landscape gardeners will tell you there are two basic questions you need to answer when you're thinking of creating a pocket garden.

One is, "What have I got?" This refers to the size of the space that you want to convert into a garden, where the sun falls, how much light it gets, etc.

The other question is, "What do I want?" This refers to how you want to use the space, the kind of garden you want to create. Do you want a Japanese garden with rocks and bonsais? A floral garden perhaps? Or a free-form garden where things grow naturally?

Here's a how-to guide to get you started on your own pocket garden.

SOURCES: LANDSCAPING BY LORENZ INOS, M. GALLEGOS COM-
POUND, MAMARUKA HIGHWAY, CABANATUAN CITY (0919-
5103412 OR 0919-2001832)

POTS AND PLANTS ARE AVAILABLE AT METTS' PLANT ARTS IN MANG
LA SEEDLING BANK, QUAZON BLVD COR. EDSA, QC (0252479)
PEBBLES, BOULDERS AND PATH PADS ARE AVAILABLE AT FLORAS
GARDEN ON KATIPUNAN ROAD, WHITE PLAINS, QC (02-446-
5111). "SMALL SPACE GARDENS" BY DAVID STEVENS IS AVAILABLE AT
NATIONAL BOOK STORE AND POWERBOOKS



CLEAR out the area to be converted into a garden. Put up the poles to enclose the garden from the rest of the backyard, and to frame the soft landscape of plants and flowers. If the area gets too much sun, install a heavy-duty plastic mesh overhead to filter the sun's rays.



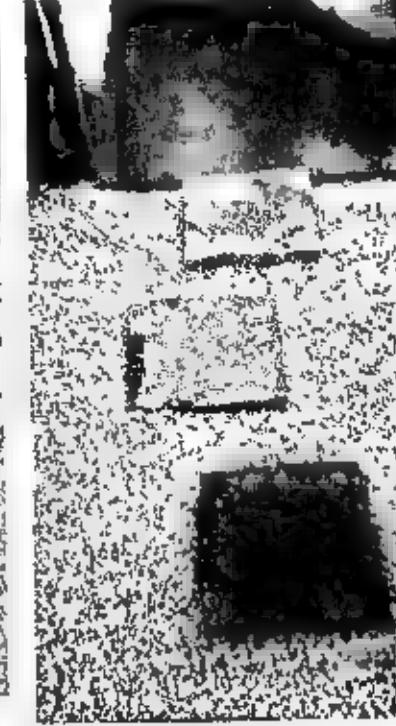
INSTALL one striking feature, and sometimes that's all a small garden can hold. Here the focal point is a big piece of weathered wood that cradles the colorful elements of bromeliads and orchids.



MOUNTAIN ferns and hanging plants like Buhok ni Ester and Manaoog Ka Ilog adorn the walls. Flowering plants provide color and scent. Palms and bromeliads and different species are chosen for colors, texture and contrasting shapes—rounded leaves and narrow blades. Three or four good plants make a good grouping.



BOULDERS add a feeling of stability and permanence as well as interesting design. Smooth pebbles cover the otherwise ugly concrete flooring. White pebbles have the ability to reflect light and are good for small gardens.



INEXPENSIVE slabs make do as step pads. Ara-al stones or adobe pads may be used. Besides smooth pebbles, chips, bark and gravel may be used as ground cover.

ENTERTAINMENT systems are sleek and take up little or no space. Samsung 20" LCD TV (P54,900); Oregon Scientific Music Element (P20,000); Carrier Room Aircon 1hp (P16,000)

A tale of two spaces

INTRIMATE SPACES, PARTICULARLY condominiums by Community Innovations (tel. 8880000), now enjoy all the coveted premiums in a luxury unit—high ceilings, air circulation, privacy and a great view.

It used to be that condo dwellers, in exchange for the tight security of a condominium development, were limited to one-level, low-ceiling, box-type units that allowed for only very little or no air circulation. These are your traditional "flats" and are often associated with condo dwelling.

Traditional studio flat units are even more oppressive. One hears of studio units that have no access to fresh air; some even don't have windows. "Air circulation" is limited to exhaust fans.

Meanwhile, luxury of high ceilings and the homelike atmosphere of an upstairs and a downstairs were exclusive to penthouse units, which were prohibitively expensive.

Access to air

Community Innovations, an Ayala Land company, felt that urban dwellers needed greater access to three rare commodities: a view, in-house privacy and access to freshly circulating air.

"We want to make the prestige and the aero-friendly features of penthouse units to visit upon intimate spaces," Bobby Dy, president of Community Innovations, said.

He cited the Tallview units in The Columns Legazpi Village (TCLV).

The total square area of 57 square meters may seem "small and cramped," but the way the units are laid out in the Tallview units allow for a total separation of the public (living room, kitchen) and private space (personal study, bathroom and sleeping quarters) by "cutting" the space in two, with the private quarters in the second level of the unit.



A TALLVIEW kitchen is created to be as efficient as possible without taking up too much space via a surround counter and with appliances built-in. Electrolux Pop-up Bread Toaster, ETS100 (P950); Electrolux Espresso Maker, EES200 (P5,990); Elba Stainless Electric range (P34,995); GE 10-cu ft ref (P28,000); GE Microwave (P13,995)

Furniture are slim and streamlined and low-lying in order to create a contiguous line from the kitchen to the dining room and the living room.

The furniture and the office equipment in the bedroom are white and sleek, so they can meld seamlessly into the color of the wall.

The selection of white is deliberate in order to allow for light to bounce off the walls and the mirrors that have been very generously used in the living room and the bedroom.

All TCLV units, regardless of configuration, have the mandatory two windows. "One window is simply not enough to allow the air to circulate," said Dy.

The circulation bounces off to the windows

in the toilets and kitchens, which assures all units of uninterrupted fresh air.

The Tallview units also have an outer area which can be repurposed as a laundry area or a mini garden, or both.

Room with a view

Providing dwellers with a good view is Two Serendra, the Community Innovations project in the heart of Fort Bonifacio.

Because of the elliptical shape of Two Serendra, no two views are the same.

"The curvilinear shape of the development was an engineering and an architectural feat," Dy said.

No two tiles, roofing material are the

ALL SPACE-SAVING APPLIANCES FROM ABENSON
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL GLO-
RIETTA (02) 804531 OR 8195663;
ROBINSONS PLACE ERNITA
(5367914 OR 4000248); VINTAGE
MART MAKATI (02) 28882 OR
812-581; SHANGRILA MALL
(4380177 TO 18) AND MARKET
MARKET (8966620 OR 8866494)

RELAXING work space. Work would be less stressful with gadgets such as these and with an inviting view of the bedroom. Apple iMac and HP All-in-One Printer (prices available upon request)

PHOTOS BY RONY HOMILLADA

same. Everything had to be customized. The consumer is king here because no two views are the same."

Two Serendra assigns a balcony to all units, including the studio flats. This was designed to give unhampered appreciation and enjoyment of the 60-percent greens in the Two Serendra development.

The balcony is deep enough to allow for low-lying furniture like a coffee table and two sets to be accommodated. The space may even allow for a reading nook or even private gardening.

"We want all units to be a continuation of the outdoors, the seven water bodies, the fruit groves and the fortress of trees that protect Two Serendra from the rest of the city," Dy said.

Even higher units get to enjoy the outdoor and the greens because fully grown 40-foot trees are being planted.

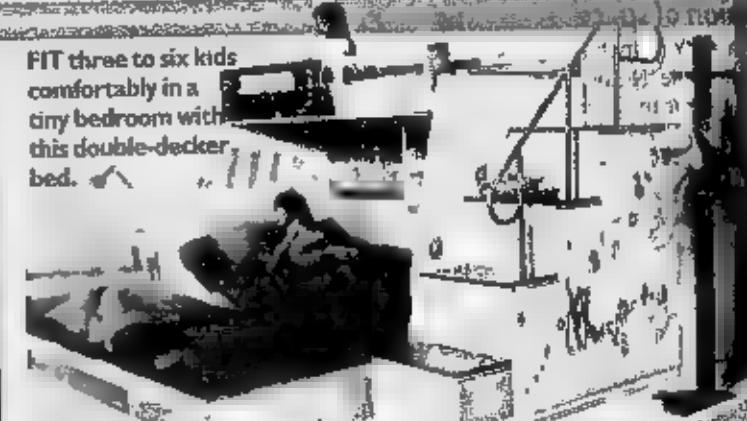
All areas in the flat of Two Serendra have an unobstructed view of the outdoors with very generous windows—up to as much as four for such an intimate space of 48-51 square meters.

The selection of sofas in the living room, designed to be the center in this particular unit, and other traditionally chunky furniture are important.

Low-lying wrap-around furniture were used in bright-colored fabrics to provide a soft touch and healthy blush to the living room.

The Tallviews of TCLV is not to be outdone—its piece de resistance is the 5.2-meter ceiling in the living room area punctuated by a floor-to-ceiling display window from where you may enjoy a view of the many parks in Legazpi Village.

Window treatments and "tall" artwork may be used in order to create a floor-to-ceiling line of sight.



FIT three to six kids comfortably in a tiny bedroom with this double-decker bed.

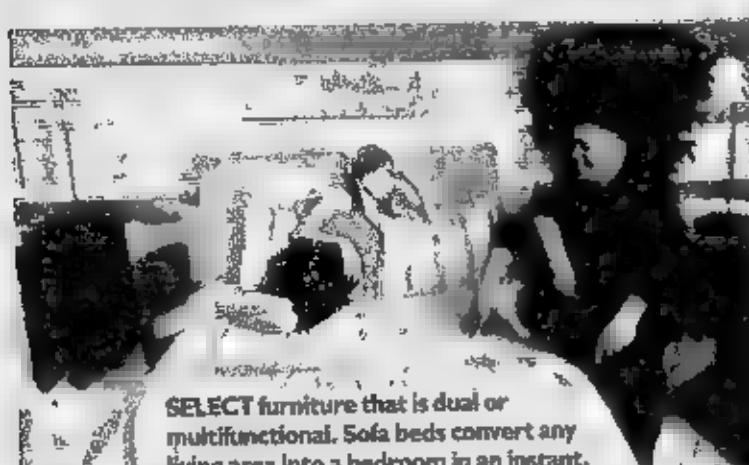


finish. If you really want to introduce a second finish, go for something neutral like a whitewash or a distressed black, provided this will complement your overall scheme.

- Choose materials and finishes that are low maintenance.
- Stay away from glass tops if you have toddlers around.
- Assign minimal colors on fabric and soft furnishings. Heavy patterns or loud colors should be seen only on a few selected items such as accent chairs. As a general rule on furnishing small spaces, use light colors on heavy patterned fabrics, while heavy colors should be used on small printed or plain fabrics.

Finally, use every resource available to satisfy your needs and tastes but don't let your condo become a showplace. After all, the most important criterion for any element of design is still function.

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SELECT furniture that is dual or multifunctional. Sofas convert any living area into a bedroom in an instant.



DESIGN kitchens carefully so no precious space is wasted.

Style in a pocket

FURNISHING anything below 100 square meters of floor area can be a daunting task, but according to interior designer Mari Ruiz Gomez, with planning, imagination and a little know-how, you can make the most out of your limited space—with style.

Start by making an inventory of your existing furniture pieces and assess the value of each item in relation to your new space. Don't let sentiment make you hold on to pieces that you want to get rid of. No chair or table should occupy precious space only because "it was a precious gift" or "it's always been around."

Next, assess your space and determine whether it can benefit from the use of built-in furniture. You may have to elicit the professional advice of an interior de-

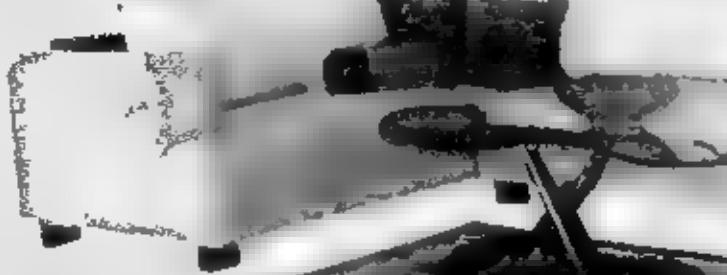
signer. He or she will be able to spot the best places to allocate and design built-in furniture.

Kitchens, in particular, have to be designed carefully so no valuable space is wasted. Overhead and wall cabinets or hanging shelves utilize walls that are otherwise a waste of space.

Wardrobe storage should be built-in. If your condo unit is short of built-in closets, the construction of such should be on the top of your priority list. Examine areas below the staircase, wide hallways and alcoves. These can serve as areas to integrate extra storage space or serve as special areas such as an entertainment area and a study area.

After you have made a short list of your existing furniture and figured out the best position for these pieces, you will be able to identify the gaps in your furnishing arrangements.

Carefully consider the furniture you will be buying for your new home. It's easy to make the



mistake of bringing in furniture that doesn't fit well in a small space. Here are some tips to follow:

- Make a list of furniture pieces and furnishings you need per area and prioritize.
- Determine the ideal shape of the pieces. This particularly applies to tables: a round table would be perfect for a square room, while a rectangular or oval table would best suit a long narrow area. Round or oval tables are preferable for cramped areas since they eliminate the hazard of sharp corners.
- Get accurate measurements of the new furniture's location.
- Don't forget to allow for clearances around it, if necessary. For bulky furniture, check out all the areas it will have to pass through, from the service elevator to the main door of the unit. If you're buying a bed frame, choose a "knockdown" type for stress-free delivery.
- Always bring a floor plan of your condo unit complete with dimensions whenever you visit a furniture store so you can refer to
- Avoid buying sofas with wide armrests. Opt for fine-framed lounge sets with bolster pillows instead.
- Try to stick to a single wood

finish. If you really want to introduce a second finish, go for something neutral like a whitewash or a distressed black, provided this will complement your overall scheme.

- Choose materials and finishes that are low maintenance.
- Stay away from glass tops if you have toddlers around.
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Photos by Fr. Basil Apostol

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"As prices of land skyrocket, people will find it very difficult to own property closer to the city," he says. "Developers will find it harder to provide spacious units to offer the market without breaking the bank. This is evident in places like Hong Kong, New York, London and Tokyo where living spaces are very tight."

Not to worry, architects and interior designers are rising to the challenge. One of Yabut's pioneering approaches at the Columns Ayala Avenue is to integrate a washing machine into the toilet and bath to free up the living area. "It's a first in such a market," he says.

Flow of energy

But living in miniature is not always about challenges. From the standpoint of feng shui, there is more to small homes than practical advantages. "For one, the energy is concentrated," says Princess Fernandez, proprietor of the Yin & Yang Shop of Harmony at the Mandarin Oriental Manila. "A big house with only three people in it is not good as there is not enough human energy in the home."

Clutter, however, is the worst enemy of chi. "Where everything is so cramped and move-making, it's stifled," says Fernandez, "energy cannot flow freely." She warns against popular solutions like tall beds that make room for a work-corner underneath them: "This creates a very low ceiling for the work area, where one may feel under so much pressure and have trouble getting up with creative ideas." Overhead, the bed that is too close to the ceiling is also a no-no.

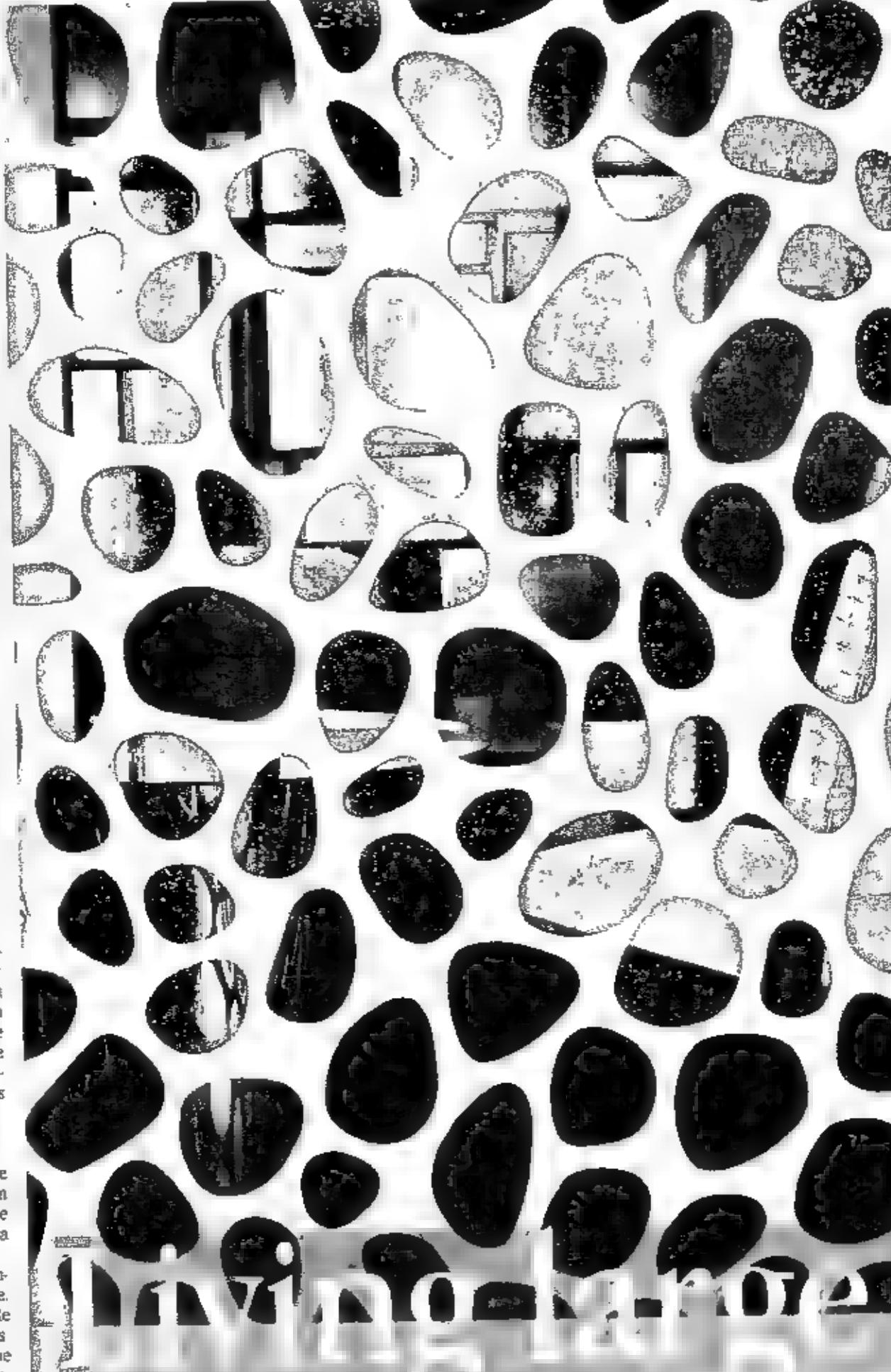
Illusion of space

Karen Yaptinchay, now an expatriate in The Hague, Netherlands, bought a 36-sq m studio unit in Saucedo Village, Makati, where her only indulgence was making room for a bed.

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Double duty

Multipurpose furniture is the key to living large in a small place. Luckily, we need not look far and wide for such furniture anymore. Even the common stores now occasionally offer such double-duty treats as ottomans that are hollow inside and with lift covers, coffee tables under which to keep photo albums and

other knickknacks, or storage benches that double as twin beds. Why not let decorative boxes keep your clutter out of sight while providing design accents to your home?

Indeed, to make the most of space, we need to be masters of such magic tricks as disappearing acts and spatial illusions! Why not hide a dresser in the closet to de-clutter the

bedroom? Have a dishwasher custom-built and installed under the sink. Add a shelf within an existing shelf to put wasted space to good use. Why not fit a glass cutting board over the stovetop to create more counter space? Conceal the bathroom door with hidden hinges to make it blend in with the wall. Build a deep tub in the shower so you have the option to soak, even if it means sitting up, three wall tub style. And, of course, why not mirrors?

The use of mirrors can surely make any room seem double its size. But Faye Dizon-Cunanan, Milan-trained industrial designer and proprietor of Souk Gallery in Ortigas, has mixed feelings about it.

"I can't stand it when people try to expand space by covering up a wall with mirrors from floor to ceiling. It makes me feel like I'm in some cheap Chinese restaurant," she says. "Large framed mirrors are more tasteful and you can move them from one wall to the other when you need a change."

Without a doubt, if you plan to stay in your condominium for a long time, you must make room for changes. Install different sources of lighting to vary the mood of your place or to create a different mood in each area. With casters on your furniture, you can achieve mobility, a luxury in a small room, and maintain your floor space. Ripping off inner partitions is sometimes a good idea. Put sliding doors in their place or even just curtains.

For home accessories designer Al Caronan, what you need to open up space in your home is an open mind. "It's as simple as inventing novel uses for traditional home pieces," he says, laying down an upright bookshelf on the floor to turn it into a bench. Glass tops are a transformer, magically turning planters, lamps and vases into one-of-a-kind tables.

Creative planning

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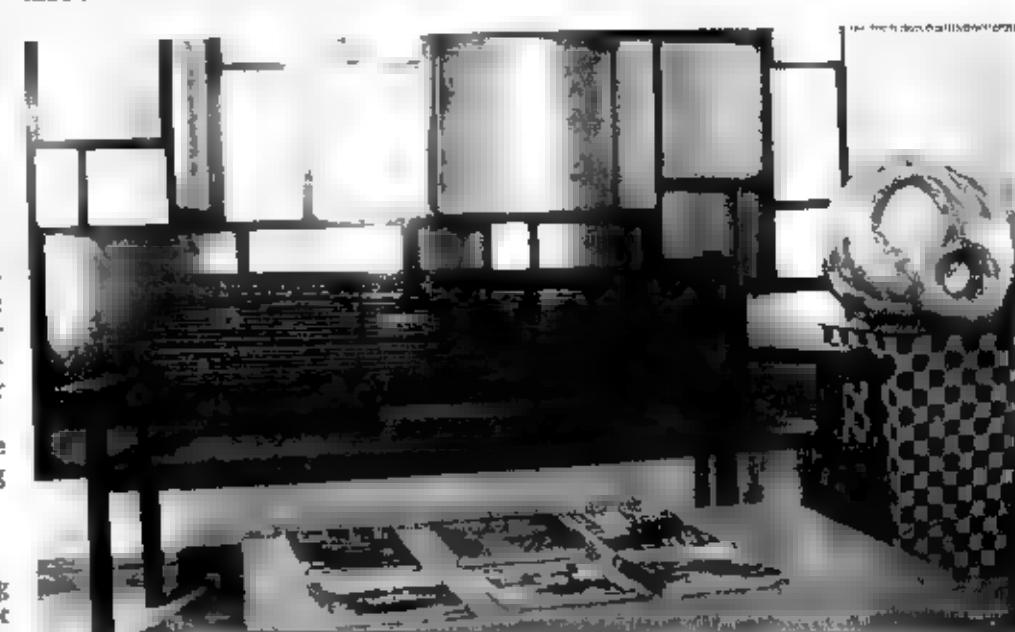
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E-mail the author at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph



PIECE DE RESISTANCE. All you need is a focal point, such as this Mondrian-inspired wall piece doing double duty as a light source and an artwork. Cordillera bench gives contrast to the ultramodern fiberglass center table, as do cast aluminum sculptures by Genesis Buensososo to a coco tile planter turned into a chairside table and a storage bin underneath.



ART OF TEA. Turned on its side, Clayton Tugonon's wave bench forms a backdrop to a tea corner with silk throw pillows, a lacquered tray bearing Chinese glass bowls, on a baca baca area rug.



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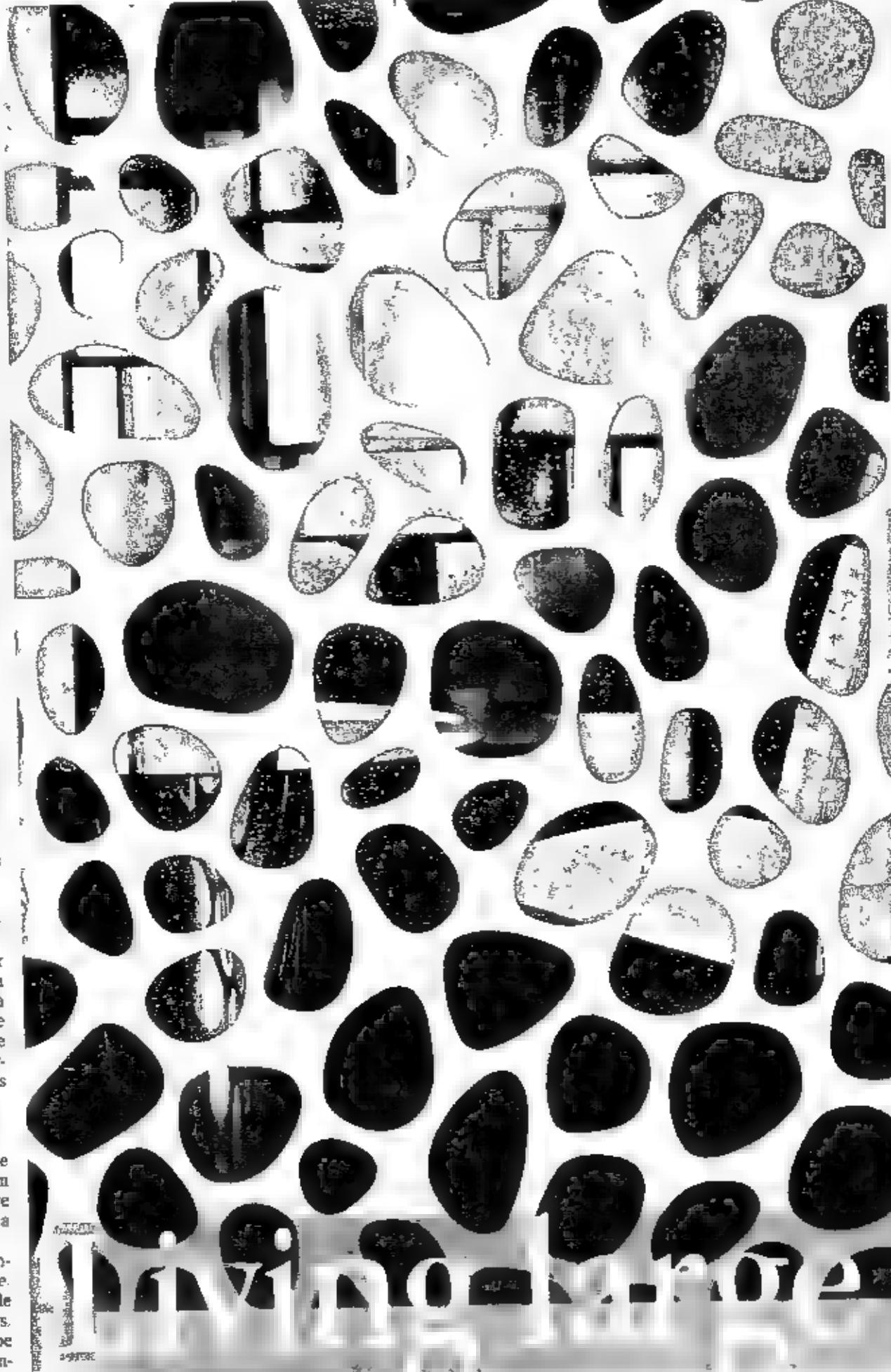
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But with just a little bit of imagination, the smallest of homes can be as boundless as the universe and, with a touch of your personal style, as cozy as your own little paradise.

E-mail the author at lifestyle@inquirer.net.com.ph



PIECE DE RESISTANCE. All you need is a focal point, such as this Mondrian-inspired wall piece doing double duty as a light source and an artwork. Cordillera bench gives contrast to the ultramodern fiberglass center table, as do cast aluminum sculptures by Genesis Buendesoso to a coco tile planter turned into a chairside table and a storage bin underneath.



ART OF TEA. Turned on its side, Clayton Tugonon's wave bench forms a backdrop to a tea corner with silk throw pillows, a lacquered tray bearing Chinese glass bowls, on a baobac area rug.

Cuna celebrates treasured islands

INTERCONTINENTAL Manila, in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Heritage Conservation Society, presents "Rachified: Installations by Rachy Cuna, Floral Architect of the Philippines" May 4-25 at the hotel's lobby.

The one-of-a-kind show is in celebration of the Filipino Heritage Month. Showcasing the flowers of May, it will provide a refreshing twist to the "native" and feature exquisite creations of dried flowers and foliage all in vases, baskets, planters and other containers that reflect Filipino artistry and craftsmanship.

Cuna, an artist, master florist and stylist, draws from "everyday ob-



RACHY Cuna

jects we find on any of our 7,100 islands." His works will bring attention to the abundance of the Philippines' 13 regions.

"Pang-alay," for instance, pays homage to Luzon's endless golden

rice fields. Cuna will set up a tableau of sun-kissed palay, time-worn baskets, and a golden bulal, a statue of the rice god.

"Yaman Dagat," featuring dried materials accentuated with "weathered bits of shell and stone that wash ashore," is a gesture of thanksgiving for the bounty of Mindanao seas.

"Kawayan," on the other hand, is evocative of bamboo latticework that defines traditional homes in the Visayas. Cuna's arrangement will showcase the versatility as well as pliancy of bamboo both as a design component and a practical tool.

"Rachified: Installations by Rachy Cuna, Floral Architect of the Philippines" is part of Cuna's personal mission to promote novel uses and applications of local designs and materials here and abroad.

Handy home tips

By Ronald Paulo
Contributor

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT planned a vacation trip for the long weekend, it is worthwhile to consider having family activities which we either let our household helpers do completely or simply neglect doing due to our workload and family concerns. This not only saves us the expense of traveling but also provides perfect opportunities to bond with the family and keep the home in tip-top shape as well.

Recently, I volunteered to do my share of chores by cleaning my wife's favorite kitchen appliances. This idea not only pasted a huge smile on my wife's face, but took up the interest of my two growing daughters as well.

Household chores may be perfect opportunities for families to bond while keeping the home in tip-top shape.

So shed off that macho image and be man enough to take on some household chores. Take it from your neighborhood handyman ..

Microwave oven

Care

Avoid unnecessary splatter by covering dishes, using wax paper or paper towels when a looser cover is desired. Use an appropriate cover for the cooking process. If oven does not have a removable glass shelf, a plate or paper towel under food cooked directly on oven floor (as with baked potatoes) keeps it clean.

Cleaning

Wipe up spills at once. Wash regularly with mild detergent and water and rinse and wipe dry with paper towel or clean cloth. Make sure to clean around edge of door and door opening to prevent soil buildup.

If spots have dried, boil water in a glass cup for a few minutes; steam should loosen soil. Leave in oven for five minutes. Then wipe dry.

For odors, clean the interior with a solution of 1 tablespoon baking soda to 1 cup warm water, rinse and dry. Or mix 1 part lemon juice to 3 parts water in a large glass cup and boil three to five minutes. Let cool. Then remove water and wipe dry.

Never use abrasive pads or powders on oven. Follow manual directions for care.

Coffeemaker

Clean after each use to remove coffee oils and residue which will cause poor flavor in the next pot of coffee. Wash with warm soapy water, rinse and dry. On aluminum percolators, remove hard water deposits with either a soap-filled steel wool pad, or by perking with 1-2 tablespoons cream of tartar dissolved in water, rinse thoroughly.

Do not use alkalies such as baking soda, or chlorine bleach on aluminum. On chromed and stainless steel pots, use commercial coffeepot cleaner to remove stubborn stains. Do not use them on aluminum unless label recommends it.

For electric drip coffee makers, if minerals and scale build up from hard water, periodically run a solution of half white vinegar and half water through it to dissolve scale. The heated solution may have to be run through the unit one or more times if buildup is heavy. Thoroughly rinse all parts of the unit. Run plain cold water through a cycle to remove all traces.

Flat iron

Care

To remove melted plastic and fabrics attached to the iron base, heat at low setting just until material softens, and scrape off with a smooth wooden spatula or half a wooden clothespin. If some remain, make a paste with baking soda and water or silver polish and rub. Wipe off with damp cloth. For a nonstick sole plate, rub gently with nylon mesh pad and suds. Acetone or nail-polish remover may remove melted polyester.

Cleaning

In cleaning clogs from steam iron due to minerals in water, follow use-guide directions for cleaning, or use a commercial iron cleaner. A fine needle in the nozzle hole may open it again. Sometimes "steaming" will remove lint clogging the iron, fill with at least $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water, set it to "steam," and hold in the air or set flat on wire rack over heat and moisture-resistant surface like a counter protective mat. Let it steam until empty. Using only distilled water in steam irons helps avoid mineral buildup.

Toaster

Remove crumbs regularly, and unplug before doing this. Unplug before using a utensil to remove a stuck piece of toast. In removing food or cleaning, be careful not to damage fine wires, which do the toasting. Better to keep the toaster covered when not in use in order to protect it from insects and rodents.

I suggest you do these tasks regularly to keep appliances in perfect condition. It's important also that we impart this habit to our children at an early age so they become responsible for things at home and learn the value of investments. More importantly, they can look back to these bonding moments as timeless treasures when it's their turn to run the house.

With this list of to-dos, I can heave a sigh of relief for cutting down expensive vacations while looking forward to doing homey stuff with my daughters, pleasing my wife and beginning a new saga of my life as everybody's neighborhood handyman.

The author is an engineer, a certified handyman and a family man.

Send your questions about home repair and maintenance to ronald.paulo@ric.com.ph or info@handyman.com.ph

For more handy tips, log on to www.handyman.com.ph and check out the handy tip page.

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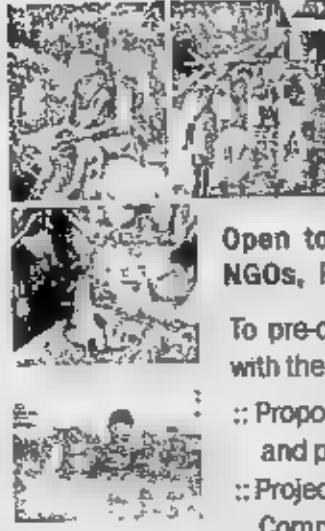


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Start up Eco-Enterprise projects that are economically viable, environmentally sound, and with social/community orientation with a maximum grant amount of P1,500,000.00

Capacity Building or projects in support to eco-enterprise development &/or community-based livelihood projects with a maximum grant amount of P500,000.00

Advocacy projects that focus on Asset Reform, Development Financing, Women and Environment with a maximum grant amount of P100,000.00



Important Dates to Remember		
	1st Batch	2nd Batch
Cut-off date for submission of concept paper	May 30	August 15
First screening/announcement of short-listed proponents	June 5	September 4
Deadline for submission of full blown project proposal	July 5	October 4
Second level screening/Field appraisal	July 5-31	October 5-31
Announcement of successful proponents	August 30	November 30

Log on to FSSI website: www.fssi.com.ph for more details. Email fssi@fssi.com.ph or mail your concept papers to 46E Samar Ave. cor E. Lopez St., South Triangle, Q.C. We will not entertain follow-up mails or calls.



Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED OFFER

The Development Bank of the Philippines will entertain offers on a First-Come, First-Served basis at the Asset Management Department, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties:

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (sq.m.)	LOCATION	Floor Price
REAL ESTATE				
CWB-34	Vacant residential lot (TCT No. 158163)	3,000	Asia World City Bld. Tambo, Paranaque City	P [REDACTED]
CWB-35	Residential lot (TCT No. 220220) w/ bldg.	■■■■■	No. 7895 Laveyan St., San Antonio Village, Makati City	P [REDACTED]
CWB-33	Vacant residential lot (TCT No. 434637)	438	Santos St., La Colina Subd., Bayan bayanan, Masinag City	P 1,177,200.00
LP-2	Vacant residential lot (TCT No. C-346198)	100	No. 11 Block 3, Moonstreet, Villa Amor Dos Subd., Zabalen, Caloocan City	P [REDACTED]
AM-RT-118	House & lot (TCT No. N-284689)	89	Lot 18, Blk 23, Parkwood Hills Subd., Brgy. Payatas, Quezon City	P 377,700.00
AM-RT-117	House & lot (TCT No. N-224211)	60	8-B, Parkwood Hills Subd., Brgy. Payatas, Quezon City	P [REDACTED]
RATANGAS				
AM-RT-118	House & lot (TCT No. 157452)	40	Lot 21 Blk 13, Transville Homes Subd., Brgy. Banay-Banay, Lipa City	P 206,700.00
BULACAN				
CWB-36	3-parcels of contiguous subdivision lots (TCT No. 409463(M)-T-409464(M)-T-409465(M)) w/ bldgs.	13,292	Bl. Minuyan, Norzagaray	P 17,994,500.00
CWB-37	Agricultural lot (TCT-417780(M)) with bldgs.	13,852	Paradise Drive, San Jose	P 7,146,800.00
CWB-38	Agro-residential lot (TCT-415855(M)) with bldgs.	11,288	Dulong Bayan, San Jose Del Monte	P 3,662,200.00
CWB-39	Residential/commercial lot (TCT-818222) with bldgs.	7,361	Bl. Sampaloc, San Rafael	P 4,480,800.00
LP-1	2-parcels of residential/industrial lots (TCT No. T-118054) with bldgs. & chattels	1,686	Tabang, Plaridel	P 3,933,020.00
AM-MR-118	House and lot (TCT No. T-448655)	42	Lot 1 Blk 2, Grotto Villa Homes, Gayangaya, San Jose Del Monte	P 175,700.00
CAGAYAN DE ORO				
COM-34	Residential/commercial lot (TCT T-139050) with bldgs. & chattels	2,187	Apari-Tuguegarao National Road, Bagumbayan, Lilo	P 5,700,000.00
LAGUNA				
CWB-40	Residential lot (TCT No. 313618)	■■■■■	Bohol St., Southpoint Subd., Phase I, Alyungan, Cabuyao	P 3,397,800.00
	Residential lot (TCT No. 375586)	308	Corner Tawa Tawa & Palawan Sts., Southpoint Subd., Phase II, Mabitac, Sta. Rosa	P [REDACTED]
RIZAL				
CWB-42	2-parcels of agricultural lots (TCT Nos. 429681 & 429680) with bldgs.	28,318	Padis Road, San Mateo	P 15,288,000.00
AM-ML121	3-parcels of industrial lots (TCT Nos. 509723 - 509727) with 23 various bldgs.	23,874	Ortigas Ave. Ext., Calauit	P 309,461,900.00
TARLAC				
AM-FD-122	House & lot (TCT No. T-399344)	40	Lot 9 Blk. 11 Worthy St., Capitol Villas Subd., Brgy. Carangan, Tarlac City	P 358,500.00
(CHATTELS - Sale on "as is where is basis")				
AM-JA-123	1-unit Offset Press Machine, HAMADA, 25" x 38" printing size, with standard accessories		La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	P [REDACTED]
AM-DE-124	3-units passenger buses, Hino Model, 67 seater 6 wheeler, 1-unit passenger bus, 53-seater w/ Isuzu engine (all not operational)		Gem Village, Maa, Davao City (Bus No. 5516 & 5518); Ma-a Road, Davao City across Emission Testing Center (Bus No. 5517); Km. 7, Lanang, Davao City (Bus No. 5514); No. 6 Barrier St., Bagong Ilao, Pasig City	P 151,400.00
AM-JA-125	2-units hydraulic press, 250 tons capacity, 24 in. diameter ram with accessories			P 525,000.00

Forms for negotiated offers may be obtained from AMD-Acquired Assets.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 0922-1588/893-7172 or 016-9511 local 2158/2159 for Coda starting with AM, and (052) 480-7084/480-7081 and 016-9511 loc. 1423 for LP and 920-49-00 for CWE

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

[PDI - April 26, 2006]

RIVIERA GOLF CLUB, INC.

NOTICE OF SALE OF DELINQUENT RGCI SHARES AT AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE RIVIERA GOLF CLUB, INC. (RGCI) WILL SELL THE FOLLOWING DELINQUENT SHARES AT A PUBLIC AUCTION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE BY-LAWS, FOR NON-PAYMENT OF THE MONTHLY DUES AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS.

A-1107	A-0558	A-0935	A-0070	A-1162	A-0059
A-0948	A-0603	A-0611	A-0236	B-0030	B-0276
B-0277	C-0212	A-1246	A-0086	A-0834	A-1114

THE AUCTION DATE IS SET ON MAY 5, 2006 AT 10:00 O'CLOCK A.M., AT THE TEE PAVILION, RIVIERA GOLF CLUB, INC., SILANG, CAVITE

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING. PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH THE CLUB PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL TIME OF BIDDING.

DETAILED REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES IN THE CONDUCT OF THE PUBLIC AUCTION MAYBE SECURED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT OF THE CLUB.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

(Sgd.) ATTY. ROLANDO G. BORJA
CORPORATE SECRETARY

[PDI - April 26, 2006]

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CLASSIFIEDS

The Foundation for a Sustainable Society, Inc. (FSSI) is a non-stock, non-profit organization that aims to empower marginalized communities through its support and promotion of eco-enterprises that are socially equitable, ecologically sound and economically viable.

Open to all duly-registered/accredited NGOs, POs & cooperatives

To pre-qualify, submit a 3-page concept paper with the following information:

- :: Proponent's profile (Brief history, VMG and programs/services, areas of operation)
- :: Project description (Rationale/Objectives, Components and key activities)
- :: Expected results of the proposed project
- :: Project duration & target start up.
- :: Indicative budget & requested financial assistance

Submit a Board Resolution indicating your application w/ FSSI and authorized/designated representative/s.



PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

GUAGUA, PAMPANGA

April 29, 2006

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (PELCO.) WITH OFFICE ADDRESS AT SAN ROCHE, GUAGUA, PAMPANGA IS INVITING ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF ONE (1) COMPLETE SET OF SF6 CIRCUIT BREAKER (DEAD TANK) WITH BATTERY CHARGER, BATTERY AND CONTROL PANEL.

Specification:

Rated Maximum Volts	- 72.5kV
Rated Continuous Current	- 1,200 A
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Brand	- Made & Manufactured at USA or Europe

You are therefore invited for the pre-qualification to bid on May 4, 2006 (Thursday), 10:00 A.M. at PELCO II Board Room San Roche, Guagua, Pampanga wherein there will be an open discussion with regards to the specification of the unit and in preparation for the bidding proper scheduled on May 11, 2006 (Thursday) at 10:00 A.M. The PBAC will only accept units made and manufactured from USA and Europe.

Please be informed that non-attendance on scheduled pre-qualification to bid is an outright disqualification for those bidders who wants to join the bidding proper.

For more information please see/ contact Engr. Raul L. Canlas or Engr. Agostino L. Ocampo at PELCO II Office or dial numbers at (045) 901-0865, 900-2650

(Sgd.) ENGR. RAUL L. CANLAS
PBAC Chairperson

[PDI - April 29 & May 1, 2006]

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



MA. BERMA S. CABRERA

TECHNOPAQ, INC. hereby gives notice that its former employee MA. BERMA S. CABRERA, whose photo appears above, is the subject of Crim. Cases Nos. 128605-67 for estafa and qualified theft pending before the National Trial Court of Pasig City, Branch 152, and Crim. Case No. 82080 for falsification. A warrant for her arrest has been issued by the RTC of Pasig City, Branch 152 and has remained unserved because of her unknown whereabouts. Any information on the whereabouts of MS. CABRERA may be relayed to Technopaq, Inc. at tel. no. 6715611

[PDI - April 30, 2006]

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Please be informed that Ms. Madelyn "Madel" Mateo whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with Puerto Del Sol Beach Resort and Hotel Club effective April 1, 2006. Any transaction entered by her after the said date, shall not be honored by this company.

[PDI - April 30, 2006]

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Area: 65.00 sqms.

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PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

**WARNING TO ALL FIREFIGHTERS!**

A Fire Suppressant called "COLD FIRE" supplied to the Bureau Of Fire Protection(BFP), by the local distributor, High Tech Ventures Company Inc., has subsequently been found to be highly contaminated with bacteria that can lead to serious medical conditions such as meningitis, kidney failure and/or food poisoning.

In addition to bacterial contamination, PH and Specific Gravity (SG) checks indicate that the product was heavily diluted before delivery, thus severely reducing its overall effectiveness as a fire suppressant.

All Firefighters who come into contact with this product are urged to handle it with extreme care in order to avoid personal and/or public contamination and should immediately report any undue signs or symptoms following exposure.

Results on PH, SG, and Microbiological tests carried out on this product, advice on handling, decontamination and safe disposal can all be found on -

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635-0220

For other information, PMAP may be contacted thru telephone numbers 726-1532/81/88.

The CCM course is part of PMAP's Diploma in Human Resource Management (DHRM) program. Completion of five PMAP certificate courses merits a post graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management. The other certificate courses are Certificate in Human Resource Planning and Acquisition (formerly Recruitment Selection Placement), Certificate in Organization Development, Certificate in Compensation Management, and Certificate in Human Resource Management (CHRM).

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We think the **WORLD of the Filipino.**

WORLD CLASS TALENTS

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HOMEPAGE OF THE PHILIPPINES

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MANUFACTURING

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

FINANCIAL SERVICES

EDUCATION

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

MANUFACTURING

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FINANCIAL SERVICES

EDUCATION

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

MANUFACT

ALLIED BANK

Offers exciting and rewarding career opportunities to competent individuals to fill in the following positions:

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

- Not more than 40 years old
- Graduate of BS Engineering & Communication/Computer Engineering or related course
- With experience in LAN & WAN Installation & maintenance
- With at least 2 years experience as LAN administrator

SR. SYSTEMS ENGINEERS - MAINFRAME APPLICATIONS (SSE-MF)

- Business or computer-related course graduate
- With at least 5 years experience in programming (COBOL, CICS) and systems analysis preferably in a banking environment
- Must have a working knowledge on any of the following Systemetics banking modules: GN, IMPACS, Savings/Time, TS Teller Advance Loans, Customer Information (RM), FMS

SR. SYSTEMS ENGINEERS - WEB-BASED APPLICATIONS (SSE-WEB)

- Business or computer-related course graduate
- With 2 - 3 years PHP/SQL programming experience
- With experience working in database environments
- Graphic skills a plus

SR. SYSTEMS ENGINEERS - SPECIAL PROJECTS (SSE-SPI)

- Business or computer-related course graduate
- With 2 - 3 years experience in systems analysis and design or assisting in project management

INFORMATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (ISA)

- Not more than 30 years old
- Computer Science, Electronics and Communications Engineering, Computer Engineering, or related course graduate
- With good oral and written communication skills
- Proficient in MS Office, Visio and other documentation tools
- Knowledgeable in firewall, IDS/IPS, Antivirus, Windows XP/2000/2003 or Linux

JR. COMPUTER OPERATORS (ICO)

- Not more than 30 years old
- Four (4) year course graduate
- Computer literate

JR. COMPUTER ENGINEERS (ICE)

- Not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of Electronics and Communication/Computer Engineering or related course
- Willing to travel within the Philippines

JR. SYSTEMS ENGINEERS - WEB-BASED APPLICATIONS (SSE-WEB)

- Not more than 30 years old
- Business or computer-related course graduate
- With knowledge of PHP, PostgreSQL/MySQL, HTML, JavaScript
- Graphic skills a plus

JR. SYSTEMS ENGINEERS - SPECIAL PROJECTS (SSE-SPI)

JR. SYSTEMS PROGRAMMERS - TECHNICAL SUPPORT (SP-TS)

- Not more than 30 years old
- Business or computer-related course graduate
- Familiarity with systems administration, programming, networking, operating system like Linux and Windows

JR. SYSTEMS ENGINEERS - MAINFRAME APPLICATIONS (SSE-MF)

- Not more than 30 years old
- Business or computer-related course graduate
- Must be familiar with COBOL programming

Interested applicants may come personally to submit their resumé, transcript of records and latest 2x2 picture on May 6, 2006 at the Penthouse, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

A fast growing IT company developing mobile 3G applications is in search of:

JAVA Developers

- Senior Developer, at least 3 years I.T. experience
- 2-3 years actual development experience in Java/J2EE
- Junior Developer, at least 1 year I.T. experience, 1-2 years actual development experience in Java/J2EE
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Requirements:

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Computer Science/Information Technology or equivalent
- Applicants must be willing to render extra hours if needed
- Proven hands-on experience in Java application development
- Good documentation and communication skills
- Excellent Analytical and problem-solving skills
- Ability to work in fast-paced and dynamic environment with aggressive schedules and status reporting requirements
- Experience includes analysis, designing, code checking, testing and debugging
- Required skill(s): Hands-on Development experience using Java/J2EE, SQL and JML design

Please send your updated resumé by email to:

jobs@gibeon.ph

or via postal mail to the following address:

2307 The Orient Square, Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

A WELL-ESTABLISHED COMPANY ENGAGED
IN THE MANUFACTURE OF CEMENT
IS INVITING TOP CALIBER CANDIDATES FOR THE
POSITION OF:

ACCOUNTANTS

Preferably a CPA with extensive experience in Disbursement, General and Cost Accounting of an industrial enterprise. He/She must possess strong leadership and interpersonal skills, and with excellent communication skills. Must be willing to be posted overseas

CHINESE TRANSLATOR

Candidate must be proficient in both written English and Chinese. He/She will be responsible for the translation of various Company documents and instructions from English to Chinese and vice versa. College graduate with Bachelor's Degree are preferred.

Qualified applicants may send their resume at e-mail address:

personnel12k@yahoo.com

or P.O. Box No. 1477

ALLIED BANK

Offers exciting and rewarding career opportunities to competent individuals to fill in the following positions:

LAWYERS

- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of a reputable Law school
- With good scholastic standing
- With at least 1 year experience in handling litigation cases and corporate legal matters

ACCOUNT OFFICERS (For Metro Manila, Cebu & various provincial branches)

- Male/Female, 25 - 35 years old
- Business course preferably with MBA
- At least 2 yrs. work experience as Account Officer in Credit & Account Management
- Analytical and with excellent Marketing skills

BRANCH HEADS/OPERATIONS OFFICERS (For Metro Manila & various provincial branches)

- With a successful track record in banking specifically in the management and control of branch operations
- Dynamic, aggressive and results oriented
- With strong marketing and interpersonal skills

TRADER (Officer Level)

- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old
- Math, Physics or Economics graduate
- With 5 years trading experience in domestic/FCDU liquidity & portfolio management
- Must be a Treasury Licensed Professional

NEW ACCOUNTS CLERKS/TELLERS

- Business course graduate
- Not over 25 yrs. old
- With pleasing personality
- Assertive and customer service-oriented

JR. AUDITORS

- Male/Female, not over 28 yrs. old
- Must be a CPA
- Effective in oral and written communication
- Analytical, results-oriented, willing to travel

Interested applicants for OFFICERS should send their application thru e-mail at recruitment@alliedbank.com.ph. For STAFF positions, applicants may come personally to submit their resumé, transcript of records and latest 2x2 picture on MAY 2 & 3, 2006 at the Penthouse, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

(PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY)

IMMEDIATE HIRE LAS PINAS GARMENT FACTORY

- SECRETARY
- GRAPHIC DESIGNER
- MERCHANDISERS
- SEWING SUPERVISORS
- LINE LEADERS
- SEWERS
- MECHANIC
- PATTERN MAKER
- SUBCON COORDINATOR
- QUALITY CONTROLLERS

Qual 3-5 years exp. In apparel field. Office post English must & long hours. Work independently. SUBMIT Resumé with 2 photos, NBI, Seals, Certificate to: CENTROWIN, SportsL4th Etage, P. Quez. Tel. 8236884

Conciliation, welfare services to mark Labor Day

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said that the celebration of Labor Day on May 1 this year will include legal and welfare services to needy workers and employers.

Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas said that legal and welfare assistance will be provided to workers and employers with labor related problems aside from thousands of local and overseas jobs that would be offered to jobseekers on May 1.

She said that conciliators and other personnel from various DOLE agencies will be on hand to assist clients with labor related problems along with various firms and recruitment agencies offering jobs at the Labor Day celebration which will be held at the Quezon City Hall Covered Walk on Elliptical Road, Quezon City from 8 am to 4 pm on May 1.

The holding of the event dubbed, "Trabaho Muna Labor Day Jobs and Livelihood Fair," shall be led by the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines in cooperation with the DOLE and the Quezon City government.

JOB VACANCY


World Agroforestry Centre
TOWARDS GREEN LIVES AND LANDSCAPES

The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) conducts agroforestry research throughout the developing world. ICRAF's ultimate purpose is to improve human welfare by reducing poverty, increasing cash income, improving food and nutritional security, and increasing environmental resilience through improved agroforestry systems. In Southeast Asia, ICRAF currently works in Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and China.

Capacity Building Specialist

ICRAF SEAsia is seeking a Capacity Building Specialist to our Regional Office in Bogor, Indonesia. This is a regional position for a resident of a South/East Asian country.

Post: Three-year, expected to be filled by July/August 2006

Support the Southeast Asia Network for Agroforestry Education (SEANAFE). A regional network of 78 universities and colleges in five countries, SEANAFE aims to strengthen education in agroforestry and integrated natural resource management. The successful candidate will provide technical assistance and project management to SEANAFE and be responsible for ICRAF Southeast Asia's capacity development unit. Specific tasks include development of curricula and teaching materials, donor liaison and mobilization of project resources, conference organization, information and communication.

Qualifications: The successful candidate holds a MSc or preferably a PhD degree in agriculture, forestry, agroforestry, rural development, education, agricultural economics or other relevant field. Other qualifications include at least 5 years experience as university lecturer in Southeast Asia and experience in technical aspects of Agroforestry or integrated natural resource management. The position requires project management expertise, excellent English writing ability, a strong capacity for networking and facilitation, and research skills for conducting impact analysis of education programs.

This is an immediately opening position. ICRAF believes that staff diversity promotes excellence, and strongly encourages applications from women.

Interested candidates should send their application letter and CV by e-mail to: icrafseasia@icraf.org

For more information about ICRAF SEANAFE and its detailed description of the position and applied requirements please see our website: <http://www.worldagroforestry.org/seanafe/>

Applications will be considered until 15 May 2006



Pueblo Porla Playa

Bgy. Bantigue Pagbilao, Quezon

needs the following.

HEAD CHEF

- 2 Years experience as a Sous Chef
- Has background on French, Italian and Mediterranean cuisines
- Has knowledge on menu planning and costing
- Excellent supervisory and organizational skills
- Team player

CHEF DE PARTIE

- 2 Years experience as Chef de Partie
- Has background on Asian cuisine
- Team player

HOTEL & RESTAURANT MANAGER

- Male
- 21-30 years old
- Graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management or any related course
- Experience in managing a hotel & restaurant an advantage

Interested applicants may bring their resumé to:

The HR Department
Cotta Realty & Development Corporation
St. Perigrine Street St. Jude Cotta, Lucena City
Tel. Nos. (042)373-6187/710-8910

or email to:

cottarealty@yahoo.com
puebloporialplaya@yahoo.com

NURSES

To pursue a master's degree in Nursing in New York, Florida or Alabama. Scholarships, assistantships, clinicals available. Classes start in September 2006.

For more information, hurry up and:

Visit: www.isepinc.net

Call: ISEP, Inc. - Tel. 201 368-8200

Email: info@isepinc.net

(ISEP, Inc. [International Student Exchange Program, Inc.] is based in Paramus, NJ. It is 100% Fil-Am owned.)

Strong results... global in scale.

headstrong

Strong Opinions. Strong Results

We're looking for
self motivated, goal-
oriented, fast
learners to join our
global ranks.



Service Support Representative

- Bachelor's/College degree in Accountancy preferably CPA or experience with ERP, CRM or an accounting package such as Quickbooks, JDEdwards, Tally etc. Experience with ASP products is a plus.
- Experience in enterprise or Business Reporting (Crystal Reports, ODBC, etc.)
- At least 2-4 years overall experience in call center and/or IT industry/customer care operations.
- Willing to work nightshift.

Back Office Support

- Candidates must have a Bachelor's/College degree in Accountancy/Finance/Banking or equivalent. Preferably a CPA.
- Has deep understanding of Revenue cycle/concepts.
- Has experience in any Accounting Software (i.e. Quickbooks, SAP).
- Extensive experience in billing/revenue cycle, A/R cycle, payroll, fair amount of experience with ERP systems would be an advantage.

Implementors

- Bachelor's/College degree in any Computer, Engineering, Information Technology or Business related courses.
- Have implemented and used ERP equivalent accounting packages (e.g. SAP, Oracle or Great Plains, CRM/E-commerce product experience for 3-5 years).
- Experience in Business Processing, Analysis, Redesign and Re-Engineering.

Trainings Offered

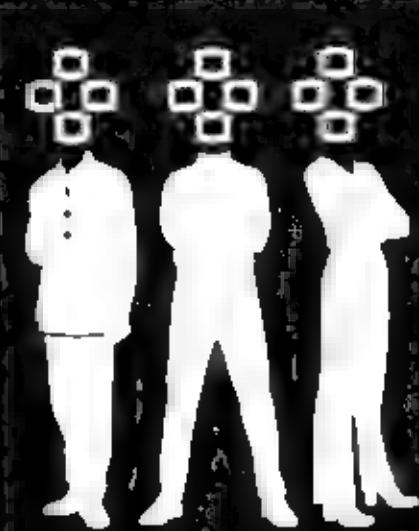
The NetSuite product is a suite of Business Applications, which have earned numerous international awards for market leadership and innovation from various global publications. Successful candidates will undergo extensive training of the NetSuite Products that will cover full Back Office Accounting functions (General Ledger, AR/AP, Processing Inventory Management, etc.), Payroll, Customer Relationship Management (Webstore fully integrated with ERP). They can look forward to a career development in the evolving model of global financial operation and system.

Candidates must possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills and must be willing to travel.

Interested candidates can send their comprehensive resumes to:

Resource Management Unit
15/F Export Bank Plaza
Sen. Gil Puyat & Chino Roces Aves.
Makati City, Metro Manila

Or email to recruitment@headstrong.com
Or visit our website at <http://www.headstrong.com>



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NETSUITE

NETSUITE HONORED WITH THE HOTTEST OVERSEAS TECH PROSPECT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Silicon Valley's Fastest Growing Software Company Receives Award at UK Technology Innovation and Growth Conference

ISM SELECTS NETSUITE AS TOP CRM SOFTWARE FOR 2006

Industry-Leading CRM Consulting Firm Includes NetSuite's On-Demand CRM, ERP and Ecommerce Suite in a Group of 15 Applications

INC. MAGAZINE RANKS NETSUITE FASTEST GROWING PRIVATE SOFTWARE COMPANY IN THE U.S.

Inc. Magazine, the premier publication for small and medium-sized businesses, ranked NetSuite, Inc., as the fastest-growing private software company in the United States. With an annual growth rate of more than 1,900 percent, NetSuite ranked No. 1 in the Software category and No. 27 overall in the Inc. 500 list of fastest-growing private companies. This is the second year that NetSuite is listed in the Inc. 500 list.

NetSuite Awarded Perfect Score By The CPA Technology Advisor

NetSuite Small Business received a perfect, 5-star rating in a recent detailed product review conducted by The CPA Technology Advisor

NetSuite, Inc. was founded in 1998 by Oracle CEO and chairman Larry Ellison and his leading technology guru and current NetSuite CTO Evan Goldberg to bring the power of integrated and low-cost application software to SMEs. From the introduction of NetSuite's first product in 1999 to the 2002 launch of NetSuite, the first mid-market integrated CRM/ERP/Ecommerce, the company has led the market in creating a new standard in business applications. Delivered as Web-based, on-demand applications, NetSuite's product offerings can reduce the cost of business applications by as much as 90 percent as there is no hardware to procure, no large, up-front licence fees, and no resources required to install, maintain, or upgrade the system. And finally, the products' easy-to-use "dashboard" user interface provides an intelligent, role-specific portal view of the application. With more than 7,500 companies using the company's products, NetSuite is the largest provider of online business applications in the world.

**BAHAGINAN**

Is a Kachagay Right Model Quality for Development

VSO Bahaginan is a national member agency of the Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Federation, an international development organization that works through, and with, volunteers, sending them in nearly 40 countries. More than 200 Filipinos have been deployed, with more than a hundred now serving as volunteers in some of the poorest countries in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. VSO Bahaginan also promotes and supports national volunteering and other volunteering development initiatives in the Philippines and in Asia and the Pacific.

VSO Bahaginan is currently looking for the following staff positions:

1. PROGRAMME SUPPORT OFFICER, VOLUNTEERING DEVELOPMENT

(Job Code: VDSupOff)

Key Responsibilities**1. Youth Volunteering Programmes**

- Promote the development of a Youth Volunteer Exchange programme within SEA and build partnerships with different organizations and donors in the Philippines and SEA.

2. Employee Volunteering Programme (EVOLVE)

- Assist the Programme Manager in mobilizing the business sector to engage in Employee Volunteering
- Conduct needs assessment of employers and host communities and prepare working policies, systems and procedures suitable to partners and beneficiary communities
- Assist the Programme Manager in training and advisory service, community matching, monitoring and evaluation, and advocacy activities

3. Partnership Building

- Assist in CO assessments of National Volunteering (NV) partners in coordination with Programme Manager and Training Advisor
- Handle finance and administrative requirements related to the implementation of various learning channels for NV partners (i.e. such as study tours, exchanges and fellowships) and help manage conferences and fairs to raise the level of discussion on youth and employee volunteering
- Assist the Partnership Development and Fund Raising Officer in resource mobilization efforts as necessary

4. Training Support

- In collaboration with the Training Advisor, prepare a learning agenda and customize training materials for Youth and Employee Volunteering partners
- Provide logistical support to the Training Advisor on projects related to Youth and Employee Volunteering

Essential Qualifications:

- Minimum 3 years relevant work experience in partnership building involving the youth and business sector, preferably with at least 1 year working with volunteers or voluntary sector
- At least 2 years experience in all phases of the training cycle
- At least 2 years exposure in resource mobilization (i.e. proposal making, negotiation, events management)
- Possess a good understanding of organizational development (analysis, OD interventions, change management)
- Knowledge and skill in project development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation (PDIME)
- Excellent oral and written communication skills and very good command of English
- Computer-literate, including power point presentation skills

2. VOLUNTEER ASSESSMENT & RESETTLEMENT OFFICER, INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER SENDING PROGRAMME

(Job Code: VARO)

Key Responsibilities**1. Recruitment**

- Develop, coordinate and handle volunteer enquiry services as well as monitor and analyse recruitment and selection trends
- Support promotion and recruitment activities

2. Assessment

- Coordinate and implement volunteer assessment activities and events, ensuring that VSO International baselines and standards for volunteer selection are met
- Select, manage, develop good relations with regular pool of volunteer-selectors, and design continuous training for selectors
- Represent Bahaginan in the International Assessment Team and participates in strategy formulation and knowledge management of the Team

3. Resettlement

- Be the main contact person of Bahaginan to returning volunteers and provide support and information to them
- Re-establish, build, sustain, and maintain mutually supportive relationships between and among returned volunteers and VSO
- Coordinate and undertake regular and special events as well as manage returned volunteer database
- Represent Bahaginan in the International Returned Volunteers Team and participate in strategy formulation of the Team

Essential Qualifications:

- Minimum 3 years work experience in human resource management including recruitment, selection, benefits administration, training; experience in working with voluntary sector is an advantage
- Minimum 2 years experience in project management, including planning, monitoring & evaluation, organizing, staff supervision, implementation and budgeting in the development sector; experience in working with the voluntary sector is an advantage
- Excellent oral and written communication skills and very good command of English
- Above average skills in word processing, spreadsheet and database computer applications
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Ability to travel and work long hours occasionally

Deadline for submission of application is on May 14, 2006. The VARO post preferably starts on July 1, 2006 and the VDSupOff post on June 1, 2006.

For a full description of these posts, please visit www.vsbahaginan.org.ph. CVs and resumes will not be accepted as applications to these posts. Interested applicants must accomplish the VSO Staff Application Form, which can be downloaded at the VSO Bahaginan website. All applicants should also write an explanatory note (no longer than two paragraphs totaling to 6-8 sentences) for each of the above essential qualifications, explaining why you believe you possess the qualities required for the post. Failure to send explanatory notes will disqualify the applicant.

Please send accomplished VSO Staff Application Form with the specific Job Code to: The Director at vsobahaginan@vsoint.org.

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified. VSO Bahaginan is an equal opportunity employer.

Aviation Partnership (Phils.) Corporation, or A+ is a joint venture between Cebu Pacific and the Singapore Airlines Engineering Company. We are a world-class Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility with an aggressive program for business growth, ensuring a rewarding career and long-term employability for our teammates.

Please take a few moments to answer these questions:

- Are you an RP-ATO licensed A&P or Avionics mechanic with rating and experience in jet engine powered aircraft?
- Have you been working abroad too long, would like to work in the Philippines, and spend more time with your family?
- Are you excited with the prospect of working with a start-up company with world-class credentials and an aggressive expansion plan?
- Are you looking for a working environment that recognizes hard work, encourages participation and teamwork, and rewards performance and contribution?
- Have you been thinking of sharing your experience with and helping develop young and aspiring mechanics?

If you are, we invite you to send your comprehensive resumes to:

Aviation Partnership (Phils.) Corporation
Aire Operations Center,
8006 Domestic Road, Pasay City 1301
or e-mail to: dianne.delostrinos@aplus.aero.ph

Associate Accounting Analyst (2 positions)**Responsibilities**

The positions assist in establishing, maintaining, facilitating and coordinating the implementation of the integrated internal control framework and related risk assessment in ADB, and prepare the required management reports and other necessary reports as the basis for Management assertion and audit evaluation; provide technical assistance and support to other departments and other divisions/sections within the Controller's Department (CTC); facilitate the recording and monitoring of necessary documentation and tasks using appropriate tools; and ensure that the work area objectives are accomplished timely and effectively. The positions report directly to the Control Officer of the Section in charge of Financial Systems and Control functions under the supervision of the Financial Control

For more details about the position, please see <http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp>

Reporting Arrangement

The positions report to the Financial Control Specialist through the Central Office, Financial Systems and Control Section (CTAC-FSC), CTC.

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level
- Bachelor degree in Computer Science or Business Administration major in Accounting; a Certified Public Accountant designation with background and experience in system analysis
- At least 5 years experience in auditing or accounting with a minimum of three years in a supervisory capacity with one of the big 4 accounting firms, preferably in a highly computerized environment with multi-products and experience
- good understanding of internal control and business processes concepts to facilitate the evaluation of control risk assessment

www.adb.org

- proven supervisory and interpersonal skills with ability to provide feedback to subordinates,
- proficiency and experience with specialized software and tools commonly used by international organizations and corporations for risk management and internal control evaluation such as Horizon or equivalent,
- proficiency with relevant experience in the interpretation and applications of International and American Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, ability to prepare staff instructions and guidelines and design of ad hoc reports,
- excellent oral and written skills in English,
- analytical and systematic skills with strong numerical ability, attention to details, and ability to plan and coordinate schedules in order to meet deadlines,
- good knowledge of accounting systems for Banking industry.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting Ref. No. EXT-AS06-057(4)-ETAC-FSC and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by 15 May 2006.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank

**Senior Cofinancing Officer****Responsibilities**

The position is responsible for participating in structuring, executing and syndicating loan and project finance transactions requiring commercial cofinancing and in managing syndicated loans, and in preparing periodic profile reports, highlighting key features of cofinancing partnerships/syndicated arrangements

For more details about the position, please see <http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp>

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Director Office of Cofinancing Operations (OCO).

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level
- Master's degree in Business Administration or related fields, or CPA
- 10 years of relevant professional work experience, with at least 5 years of experience at a senior level in a private sector
- at least 5 years of experience originating, executing, and syndicating loans for infrastructure and/or financial sector

www.adb.org

- strong analytical, credit evaluation, risk mitigation, and report preparation skills.
- ability to set priorities for assigned tasks.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting Ref. No. EXT-HD06-041(4)-OCO and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by 15 May 2006.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank

**WANTED IMMEDIATELY
INTERIOR DESIGN ASSOCIATE**

- BS Interior Design or BFA Major in Interior Design Graduate
- 1 year work experience would be an advantage
- Male/Female, not more than 25 years old
- Knowledge in CAD would be an advantage

You may mail or submit your resume, transcript of records and 2x2 picture to:

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430 Mayon St., Sta. Mesa Heights, Q.C.
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A well established Agribusiness Equipment company has immediate opening for:

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To handle the overall accounting function of the company

** Accounting graduate, female, at least 3 years relevant experience in accounting. Knowledge in operating any Accounting software is a must.

Applicants are requested to send their resumé, transcript & 2x2 picture

34 P. Benzon St., Phase 1, BF Homes, Parañaque City Tel. No. 770-8141

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• Any 4 year course graduate

Please send your resumé with 2x2 photo to Room 822

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- Current/Previous experience as a senior associate/supervisor, rendering external audit services to multinational corporations
- CPA, with very good communication, interpersonal, supervisory and project management skills

Technical Standards and Risk Management Manager

- Current/Previous experience as a manager, rendering external audit services to multinational corporations and/or
- Current/Previous experience rendering quality control, technical standards and/or risk management services in a professional services firm
- CPA, with very good communication, interpersonal, supervisory and project management skills

Internal Audit Managers

- Current/Previous experience rendering external or internal audit services to multinational corporations
- CPA, preferably Certified Internal Auditor or MSA degree holder
- Industry knowledge in banking or insurance is a plus
- Very good communication, interpersonal, supervisory and project management skills

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- Current/Previous experience rendering external or internal audit services to multinational corporations
- CPA/Certified Internal Auditor/MSA degree holder preferred
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- CPA or CPA Lawyer, preferably less than 36 years old
- Preferably with experience in rendering financial audit or tax services work for multinational corporations
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- College graduate with very good communication skills
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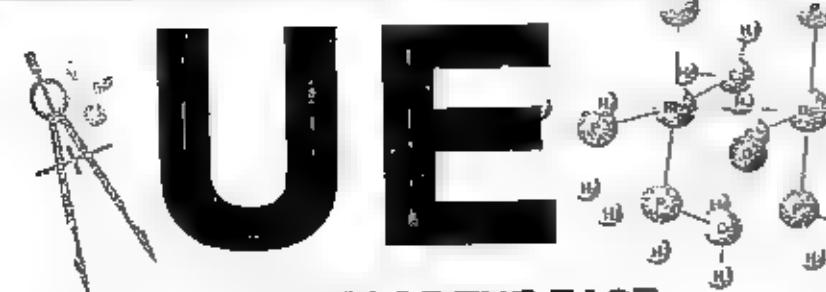
Human Resources Department

Isla Lipana & Co./PricewaterhouseCoopers

29/F, Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, 1226 Makati City, Philippines

Telephone +63 (2) 845 2728 • Facsimile +63 (2) 845 2806

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World Food Programme	Programa Mundial de Alimentos	Programme Alimentaire Mondial	برنادعه ال alimentaire المالي
United Nations World Food Programme - Philippines			
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT No. 2008048			
Date of issue 30 April 2008			
World Food Programme (WFP), the food aid organization of the United Nations is seeking applications from the qualified Filipino nationals who has vast jobbed experience in shipping, clearing, transport and warehouse management for the following positions for its office in Davao, Cotabato and Iligan			
1. National Logistics Officer	-	1	
2. Logistics Assistant (Transport)	-	2	
3. Logistics Assistant	-	1	
4. Logistics Clerk (Customs Clearance)	-	1	
5. Warehouse Manager	-	2	
6. Store Keeper	-	2	
7. Tally Clerk	-	2	
8. LTSH Assistant (Financial Tracking)	-	1	
9. LYSH Clerk (Financial Tracking)	-	1	
10. CTS Manager/Data Analyst	-	1	
11. CTS Data Clerk	-	1	

The interested candidates can request the Terms of Reference for the positions from: marissa.morales@wfp.org, andrea.lopez@wfp.org, nicole.silva@wfp.org. Applications along with a detailed CV should be addressed to:

UN World Food Programme, C/o Bank Tower, G/F 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 1226
UN World Food Programme, No. B31 Aguinaldo St., Jund Subd, Malina Davao City
UN World Food Programme, No. 3, Rito Manera Street, Rosary Heights, Cagayan City

Women candidates are encouraged to apply. Equally qualified female candidates will be given preference. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

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ACCOUNT OFFICERS

- Must have at least 2 years related experience in account solicitation of salary, auto or housing loans
- Must have very good communication skills
- Preferably graduates of any business-related course
- Preferably not more than 35 years old

AUTO APPRAISERS

- Must have related experience in auto appraisal - local & imported cars
- Must be familiar with various areas in Metro Manila
- Must know how to drive a motor cycle, has license and willing to do field work
- Must have very good oral & written communication skills
- Preferably with knowledge in basic real estate appraisal
- Preferably graduates of any business related course
- Preferably not more than 28 years old

BRANCH MANAGERS

- Will be responsible for attaining the branch's target financial volume through deepening of existing accounts and acquisitions
- Will also be in charge of planning & implementing sales & service strategies of the branch
- Must have at least 3 years related banking experience in aggressive account generation
- Preferably not more than 42 years old

CREDIT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

- Must have extensive background in financial analysis, credit evaluation and approval, loan processing, documentation and collection
- Must have experience in handling consumer loans like auto, housing and salary loans
- Must have very good report preparation and presentation skills
- Preferably graduates of any business related course
- Preferably not more than 35 years old

FIELD CREDIT INVESTIGATORS

- Must have related experience in credit investigation, appraisal and collection
- Must know how to drive a motor cycle, has license and willing to do field work
- Must have very good oral & written communication skills
- Preferably graduates of any business related course
- Preferably not more than 28 years old

OTHER POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

Investment Banker, Loan Bookkeeper, Roving Tellers, Recruitment Staff, Signature Verifiers
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Send your application letter, resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo on or before May 15, 2006.

Position Applied for:
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RCBC Savings Bank - HR Administration Department
1806B West Tower, Trizta Building, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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- Skilled Workers
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- Plumbers
- Machine Operators
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- IT personnel
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Interested applicants are invited to submit their resumé on-line at admin.prosearch@gmail.com or visit us at ProSearch office, Unit 802 Centerpoint Bldg., Garnet Road cor. J. Vargas Ave Ortigas center, Pasig. For more info pls. call 831-9040

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- Nursing aids
- Radiological Technicians
- Pharmacists
- Pharmacy Assistants
- Stockroom Custodians/Warehousemen
- Caregivers

Accounting personnel

- Accounting Assistants
- Bookkeepers
- Sales positions
- Sales Staffs
- Promo Girls
- Merchandisers
- Sales Executives
- Medical Representatives
- Management Trainees (from Fast food chains)

Facilities/Office Manager

- Between 26-35 years old
- At least 3 years managerial experience in Facilities/Office Management/Administration

Assistant Facilities/Office Manager

- Preferably licensed Engineer
- Between 26-35 years old
- At least 3 years supervisory work experience in managing critical systems

Both must have:

- Excellent people skills
- Experience with tendering / procurement and service improvement initiatives
- Computer literate
- Experience with continuous improvement initiatives
- Experience with client reporting and preparation of reports
- Ability to multi-task to meet deadlines

Please send your resumé to:

JONES LANG LASALLE

Facilities Management Department
8F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
1200 Philippines



BRIGHT STAR Placement Corporation
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Please personality and with at least 2 years hospital experience

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\$21 per hour for RN

Interested applicants must submit their RESUMÉ WITH 2x2 Colored Pictures interview with Regional Director of the ALDEN MANAGEMENT will be held on MAY 8 to 12, 2006.

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- Between 26-35 years old
- At least 3 years managerial experience in Facilities/Office Management/Administration

Assistant Facilities/Office Manager

- Preferably licensed Engineer
- Between 26-35 years old
- At least 3 years supervisory work experience in managing critical systems

Both must have:

- Excellent people skills
- Experience with tendering / procurement and service improvement initiatives
- Computer literate
- Experience with continuous improvement initiatives
- Experience with client reporting and preparation of reports
- Ability to multi-task to meet deadlines

Please send your resumé to:

JONES LANG LASALLE

Facilities Management Department
8F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
1200 Philippines

URGENTLY NEEDED

"With experienced"
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Civil Engineer

25 – 35 years old – Male / Female
Proficiency in Auto CAD and Land Development Design

Senior Structural Engineer

27 – 35 years old – Male/Female
Knowledge in Auto CAD / STAAD

Architect

Knowledge in Auto – CAD
20 – 30 years old – Male/Female

Interested Applicant may send Your Resumé to:
rmdc_vca@globelines.com.ph
rmdoronila@yahoo.com



European International School

Due to the expansion and growth of its programmes, the European International School is currently recruiting the following educators for the next school year (2006/07), which will begin this September.

The European IB Sector is looking for

Biology/Chemistry Teacher (part-time)

The successful candidate will teach Biology and Chemistry at Higher and Standard Levels for the graduating IB class. S/he will be responsible for leading classes of about 5 students toward the best possible IB grades. This involves laboratory experiments and interactive teaching of the curriculum.

Economics Teacher (part-time)

The successful candidate will teach Economics at the Higher Level. S/he will be responsible to lead classes of 3 to 7 students toward the best possible IB grades. This involves interactive teaching of the curriculum.

Applicants must at least have a Bachelor's degree in Science or Economics as well as teaching experience at the University/College level. IB experience is preferable but not required.

Interested applicants can send their CV and cover letter by email to: application@els-manila.org

Deadline for submission of applications: 21 May 2006

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted and invited for an interview.

For more details about the European International School, log on to www.els-manila.org.

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AIRCON TECH / INSTALLER

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Single, Female, with at least two years experience

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Candidates should:

- * Be 25 years old and below
- * Be at least 5'2" for female and 5'5" for male
- * Be a graduate of a four-year course
- * Have excellent written and oral communication skills
- * Have pleasing personality
- * Have high customer orientation
- * Be computer proficient
- * Be willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines (preferably Manila, Pangasinan, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro and Butuan City)

Interested applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resume with 2x2 ID picture and transcript of records to:

The Recruitment Team
HR Services Department
Organization Development Division
2/F United Laboratories Building
66 United Street Mandaluyong City
Code: Medichem Pharmaceuticals

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SALES

Business Development Manager
Client Services Manager

LEGAL

Legal Assistant

TRAINING

Training Manager, Leadership Development
University Linkages Program Liaison
Communication Trainers (Manila & Cebu)
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Real Estate Trainer
Financial Services Trainer
Technical Trainer (Manila & Cebu)
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9:00am to 5:00pm
HR Hotline: (032) 234-8222

Davao City
A-301 Plaza de Luisa
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ASSISTANT DIVISION Merchandise Manager

Duties & Responsibilities

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- Assortment planning
- Business planning
- Develop and lead Merchandising Team

Qualifications:

- Male or Female, over 30 years old
- Bachelor's Degree in related field
- 5 years experience in Retail Business
- Excellent Financial Planning and Management skills
- Possess analytical skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

Merchandise Manager

Duties & Responsibilities

- Develop and plan Merchandise Assortments
- Drive Sales and Gross Margin
- Manage Monthly OTB (Open-to-Buy)
- Manage and develop suppliers
- Develop Advertising and Sales Promotion Plans
- Implement and Monitor Visual Merchandising Standards

Qualifications:

- Male or Female, not over 35 years old
- Bachelor's Degree in related field
- 4-5 years Retail Merchandising, Store Operations or Brand Management experience
- Experience in planning, forecasting, and allocation
- Computer literate

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday,

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM to:



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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Must be at least 30 years old; graduate of Management, Accounting or Business. Must have excellent written and interpersonal communication skills, computer proficiency, strong organizational, analytical and coordination skills. Previous experience as Executive Assistant an advantage. Must be detailed, organized and thorough. Personable and pleasant.

MARKETING MANAGER

Should develop marketing plans and strategies for our clients. Background in planning and implementing marketing programs. At least 28 years old, graduate of Marketing, Business or Mass Communications. Good command of English, articulate, aggressive, pleasant with great personality. Strong presentation and communication skills required.

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Send resume with colored photo to:

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Unit 2803 Jollibee Plaza, F. Ortigas Road (Emerald Avenue)
Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Email: icph888@yahoo.com

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- MUST have experience in ISO/TS & QMS implementation

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- Male, 25-30 years old;
- BS Mechanical Engineering Graduate
- MUST be experienced in Mechanical/Machine Design using AutoCAD.
- Knowledgeable in Drafting.

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- Industrial Engineering graduate
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BUILDING ENGINEER**

- Male, 21-30 years old.
- Licensed Mechanical or Electrical Engineer
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- Must be willing to work on night shift and weekend.

ACCOUNTANTS/AUDITORS

- Male or Female, 21-35 years old. CPA required.
- Preferably with at least 2 years work experience in a manufacturing set-up or auditing firm.

* POSITIONS based in Sta. Maria, Bulacan. Previous Applicants need not apply.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO APPLY PERSONALLY WITH RESUME AND T.O.R. TO:

THE CORPORATE RECRUITMENT SECTION (BATTERY GROUP),
RAMCAR CENTER, 80 ROCES AVENUE, QUEZON CITY

Or Email: bsarmiento@moltile.com, ebmusical@moltile.com
(Pls. email to one addressee only).

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- Male, 30-35 years old with professional driver's license.
 - At least a graduate of any vocational or technical course.
 - Must have worked continuously as a driver for at least 5 years, preferably as a family driver.
 - Has driven both manual and automatic transmission vehicles.
 - Can do car maintenance and troubleshooting repairs.
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 - Must be physically fit and in very good health; must be a NON-SMOKER.
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• Chemistry/Physics •

With MS degree in Chemistry or Physics; with at least one year of teaching experience

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With MA/MS degree in Mathematics; with at least one year of teaching experience

• Hotel and Restaurant Management •**• Tourism Management •**

Must be a degree holder of MSHRM, MS Foodservice Administration, MS Tourism Management, MBA major in HRM; with at least one year of teaching experience in tertiary level; with at least two years of hospitality experience in related businesses; with pleasing personality

(To qualify as special Guest Lecturer: without master's degree; with at least ten years of hospitality experience)

Accounting Clerk

Must be a degree holder of BS Accountancy, Management Accounting or related courses; must be computer literate; with high sense of responsibility and can work with minimum supervision; not more than 30 years old; with pleasing personality

Apply personally at the Human Resource Management Office - Faculty Services, Gregorio Montoya Hall (GMH 110) of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, Cainta 4115 Philippines. Please bring the necessary documents (e.g. resume, diploma). For further inquiries call (046) 416-4531 • (02) 844-7832 • local 3024 <http://www.dasma.dlsu.edu.ph>

ERRATUM

In the Job Market advertisement of the De La Salle University-Dasmariñas last April 23, 2006, we inadvertently used the logo of the De La Salle-College of St. Benilde.

Our apologies.

JOB OPPORTUNITY**Job Title: Receptionist / Telephonist****Essential Qualifications:**

Ability to write and speak FRENCH and English well; ability to write and speak local language/s well; experience in dealing with the general public; experience working in a general office environment

Rated Elements:

The successful candidate should possess effective communication and administrative skills, flexibility and adaptability to meet the constant change in the demands of the job.

Conditions of Employment:

The successful candidate must pass the enhanced reliability and security checks plus a medical exam and must accept the responsibilities required in the job.

Please send your applications to:

Personnel Section
Embassy of Canada
8/F RCBC Plaza Tower 2
Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Or hand deliver it to the Basement 4 of RCBC Plaza

Applications must be received no later than May 17, 2006

Canada



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Claims Analyst – Cebu Operations

The position is responsible for the entry and accurate analysis, adjudication and reconciliation of claims after thorough screening and validation based on company policies and guidelines, and on contractual requirements.

- ✓ At least 3 years of relevant work experience in medical claims
- ✓ Intermediate computer skills
- ✓ Basic knowledge in accounting principles
- ✓ Possesses typing skills

Ultrasound Technologist – Las Pinas Clinic

The position is responsible for performing the required ultrasound procedures to patients.

- ✓ Registered Radiologic Technologist
- ✓ Knowledgeable in special sonographic procedures such as biopsy, aspiration and lymphangiogram
- ✓ Possesses good communication skills
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SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Gateng Reyes

How do you reduce your stress at work?

DEAR WW: THE STRESS AT
work is really starting to get to me. Any advice on how to just survive today's workplace?

Stressed Out

Just when you thought the workplace was overstressed, comes word from Microsoft that it's going to get worse. Microsoft's British division announced an Internet-ready portable outhouse with a computer and a plasma screen. Initially, Microsoft said it was a hoax, but later Microsoft UK admitted that they had been working to debut this product at British festivals.

This story reminded me that in the future the workplace is only going to get faster, more complex and more stressful. So when it comes to stress, these are the good old days I've listed a series of stress busting strategies below. For more, check out Wolf Rinker's book, "Don't Oil the Squeaky Wheel" (McGraw Hill, 2004).

Do you change the changeable? Let me give you a small example. When I would write this column each week I would get frustrated at having to go to a bunch of pull down menus in my word processing program to find things that I needed. One day I real-



Bob Rosner

ized that I could put all the stuff I used each week on the menu bar so they were only one click away. How many issues are like this at work? Where we can eliminate our headaches if we only know what they are and do a bit of digging to explore all of our options?

Do you seek to accept the unchangeable? I get a lot of e-mail every week from people who complain that they would have the perfect job if it wasn't for (fill in the blank with boss, coworkers, customers—or whatever ails you). The question that I always ask, is your headache worth leaving your job over? They seldom are. That's why we often need to learn how to accept, turn our back on or to get as far away from certain stressors at work.

Do you remove the unacceptable? If the unchangeable is starting to really bug you, then sometimes you have to take drastic action, like quitting your job. Yes,

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

sometimes the ultimate removing the unacceptable is to take yourself out of the equation. There are other times where you need to fire an employee, quit a committee or otherwise take yourself out of harm's way.

Do you look for opportunities to simplify? Recently, I've moved into a small apartment after living in houses for many years. I can't begin to tell you how wonderful it is to simplify your lifestyle. It's amazing how often we get stuck supporting hobbies, habits, behaviors, etc. that just

aren't necessary. Do you focus on the positive? The best stress reliever I know is to always surround yourself with people with positive attitudes.

Normally, I try to finish my column with a pun based on the opening story. But given this week's topic, I thought I'd take some of the stress off me this week and just say goodbye.

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)



'Should I continue my MBA studies in Manila?'

By Tita Datu Puangco

I AM CURRENTLY WORKING IN AN ACCOUNTING OFFICE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL PERSON AT WORK



the reasons why you are pursuing a master's even if you already have a license in accountancy, I can sense from your letter that you want to earn enough points so you have a good placement in the upcoming reorganization. But this should be a secondary reason. The primary reason has to be the search for knowledge through a good degree of academic rigor. A master's education enables and empowers you to get into other jobs or careers or opportunities in the future.

If you agree with me that the primary reason for studying is learning, then you have to find a quality school with excellent faculty and sterling reputation. Then, also recognize that in a quality institution, the other source of learning and network are your classmates. It pays to have qualified classmates who can challenge your theories and thinking. I studied and then taught at a prestigious graduate school of management for two years. The intellectual ferment from the classroom discussions made me think and inspired me to give my best. I also had much fun. I often look back to those days with much gratitude in my heart. So high grades and honors are simply perks but they are not the key reasons why we go to school.

I still don't know if I still want to work in my job. I am thinking of working abroad in the future. But as of the moment, I want to finish my master's. Money is not a problem but I keep thinking of what's the better choice. Travel time from our province to Manila is four hours and the tuition fee in Manila is much higher than in the province. But I would like to have a good quality education. I don't have to graduate with highest honors. It would be sad if one graduates with highest honors without knowing much.

Please help me decide what is better, to finish my MBA in the province or in Manila? Thanks.

Education Advocate

You are thinking of pursuing your MBA in Manila where you think the quality of education is better. Is this the right decision? Let us begin with

the reasons why you are pursuing a master's even if you already have a license in accountancy, I can sense from your letter that you

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an option for you, here's another crazy suggestion. It is so crazy, but at some point in my career, it worked well for me. In fact, it seems completely the opposite of my earlier suggestion that you look for what you want to do.

Do what others hate to do

If you want to have a great career, you might want to consider my crazy suggestion—do what others hate to do. This might sound ironic, if not utterly crazy. If you have tried everything else and nothing works for you, there's nothing to lose if you try crazy to do.

Experiment

If you don't know what you want, try experimenting with the different aspects of your job. Usually, any kind of job requires a mixture of varied activities—e.g., report writing, talking to people, analysis, making presentation, recording transactions, etc. Look back as far as you can and find out which parts of your past and present jobs have given you some sense of satisfaction or enjoyment. This will indicate what you like most and therefore what you might best enjoy doing. Seek transfer to jobs that interest you or, at worst, look for these in other companies.

If transferring or resigning is not

an option for you, here's another crazy suggestion. It is so crazy, but at some point in my career, it worked well for me. In fact, it seems completely the opposite of my earlier suggestion that you look for what you want to do.

Benefits to your career

Doing what others hate to do

will benefit your career. You will find little competition as there are likely very few people crazy enough to volunteer for tasks they hate to do. In most organizations, there are a lot of tasks left undone because people simply hate to do them. If you make a career out of doing things that others

hate to do, you will find yourself in great demand. Eventually, there will always be a job for people who love to do what others hate to do.

Develop this strange liking for unwanted jobs, starting with what your teammates hate to do. Then, expand your horizon and see what your boss hates to do. Learn to love what your boss hates to do and volunteer to do them, until he develops the confidence to pass on to you the most unsavory but important parts of his job. These unwanted jobs might include preparing a detailed budget, writing a boring technical report, conducting a research or survey, conducting a briefing with his subordinates, or attending a task force meeting in his behalf.

(Public service announcement: There will be a grand reunion of all alumni of the University of Nueva Caceres, Naga City in September this year. Alumni in Metro Manila can e-mail me their contact details so that the Organizing Committee can contact them.)

(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. E-mail feedback to ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com.)

'How can I learn to love what I do?'

By Ernie O. Cecilia, FPM

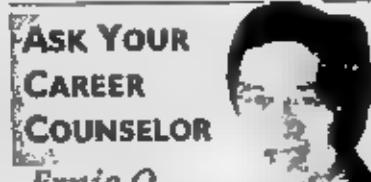
IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE I started working in a fairly large company. I have been in three positions already.

I must admit that I am using very little of what I learned in school. Worse, the things that I do now do not interest me. I once asked advice from our HR manager and she told me that in order to make the most of my career, I should learn to love the things that I do.

Considering that my present position is not in line with what I studied in college, and that my interests in life are different from what I do at work, how can I learn to love my work and enjoy my stay in the company? Should I start looking for another job? Please understand that I don't want to join the ranks of the jobless.

Bored Member

Let me assure you that there are millions in your situation now. Countless others have taken the first jobs that came along, usually without much thought about whether or not they will enjoy doing



Ernie O. Cecilia

ing their work.

It is true that you will tend to get the most out of your career if you enjoy your work. It is almost pathetic to be forcing oneself to do a job that is not enjoyable.

Myth

Many have the wrong notion that work must be hard, or difficult or tiring or utterly thankless. I used to have a boss who always castigated us whenever he caught us laughing and enjoying our work. He said that happiness and productivity never go together. I tend to disagree with him. Many of the people who are successful in their work usually enjoy what they do.

Interests

Conversely, people who do not enjoy what they do can't be expected to give their best. At best, they tend to go through the motion of doing the activities, without producing the desired results.

I'm glad you realize that your

work does not interest you now. I suppose you know what interests you. Knowing your interests, inclinations, talents, and passion can lead you to your ideal job. There is nothing wrong if, at this stage of your career, you can sit down and seriously find out what you really want to do with your life and your career. Forget that you have invested five solid years in your present company—seek out your dream job. Better yet, find out if there are other jobs in your present company where you are best suited. Only you will truly know what you really want to do.

Experiment

If you don't know what you want, try experimenting with the different aspects of your job. Usually, any kind of job requires a mixture of varied activities—e.g., report writing, talking to people, analysis, making presentation, recording transactions, etc. Look back as far as you can and find out which parts of your past and present jobs have given you some sense of satisfaction or enjoyment. This will indicate what you like most and therefore what you might best enjoy doing. Seek transfer to jobs that interest you or, at worst, look for these in other companies.

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A ghost to rely on

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDs

FROM THE SEMINARS I CONDUCT FOR WORKERS, I GATHER THAT there are indeed haunted workplaces where people see or sense ghostly presences, and experience strange or inexplicable incidents. These allegedly haunted places of work naturally give some the creeps, though for many they are a convenient excuse for not doing overtime alone. However, not everyone believes in such scary phenomena—at least not in their personal work station. Like me. Some workers in the CBCP Compound swear there are ghosts frequenting certain offices or spots like the library, the stairway near the ladies' room, etc. Some reporters themselves who work daily here at the CBCP Media Office claim they have seen ghosts in my very room, while some visitors declare that my room has such positive vibrations that they like to linger in it!

Although I do not rule out the possibility that ghosts do exist, I myself have yet to encounter one. I've been to so many "haunted" places including offices, and in fact invite ghosts to show themselves to me if that will help them! But so far, no one has showed up, leading me to think that ghosts—imagined or real—shouldn't be feared, they can only do me harm if I let them. Tough if my fear of them hinders my work performance, great if my trust in them can help me locate missing documents for instance. Unless and until a ghost can convince me beyond doubt that it is more powerful than God, I will go on believing I can keep them under control. The choice is mine—ours, really. To help me in my work then, I choose to count on the Holy Ghost, which Jesus promised to send us after His ascension into heaven. It may sound foolish to some but, happy to say, it's worked for me who is no saint but just an ordinary believer, so why shouldn't it work for everybody else? (E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL



Gospel: Luke 24: 35-48

...he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

An enjoyable presence

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

ONE PROFESSOR I HAD SOME YEARS BACK WAS KNOWN AS a "terror" among the students. He was very qualified for his job. But his presence in class and his ways of teaching and dealing with the students created a tense atmosphere that was not conducive to learning. In fact, one classmate of mine would sweat profusely and stammer in speech (signs of nervousness and fear) when he was called to recite in class by that professor. I observed that the professor's qualification, dedication to teach and perhaps his great motivation to make us learn then, did not make him succeed in bringing about a joyful and peaceful learning process; instead, a heavy and burdensome feeling had prevailed in the whole class.

Similarly, in the workplace, there are some bosses who would inspire more fear than confidence in the workers; and would create in the minds and hearts of their colleagues more anxieties and doubts than security and assurances. They would insist on their qualifications and position to gain compliance or subservience from their subordinates, rather than build an atmosphere of teamwork and collaboration among their coworkers through good human relationships. They would rather impose an authoritative presence among the workers than inspire a loving presence among them.

When everyone in the workplace, both the executives and the ordinary workers, becomes conscious of the presence of Jesus in himself, the atmosphere of joy, peace and harmony reigns and everyone enjoys the presence of every person. (E-mail the author at mlvg@skyinet.net)

Do you want to make a career transition?

By Jo Anne R. Dumalaon
Contributor

"AM I IN THE CAREER THAT is right for me? Should I change direction?" These are among the most pressing questions in a working professional's life. According to Professor Hermunia Ibarra, author of the book, "Working Identity, Unconventional Strategies for Re-inventing your Career" (2004), our career and the work that we do is one of our important sources of personal meaning and social definition. Our working identity helps define who we are, the "possible selves" that we could become, and the risk and opportunities that come with making life-changing career shifts.

Survey

Are people interested in making career transitions? What factors influence one's decisions? What activities and barriers are involved in changing careers? People at Work Pulse attempts to answer these questions in order to take a deeper look at readers' perspectives on career transitions.

A total of 45 respondents answered last month's survey with ages ranging from 21-60 years old. Majority of the respondents were female (58 percent), and single (64 percent). Respondents have been working in their present career for an average of 10 years. A total of 62 percent of the respondents came from private firms, 29 percent from the academe, and 9 percent from government agencies. When asked whether they were satisfied with their current career, 51 percent declared that they were not satisfied.

A significant number of respondents want to shift careers. A total of 72 percent reported that they are seeking a career change. 36 percent mentioned that they are actively doing so.

PEOPLE AT WORK Pulse

and 36 percent plan to do so but not at present. Some also mentioned that they are not sure (9 percent) and only 20 percent have declared that they have no plans of changing their careers.

Factors in career transition

Respondents, regardless of gender or civil status, also reported that the top reasons that have influenced or will influence their decision to change careers are their personal values and interests.

According to Deirdre McEachern, career coach, when one's work is aligned with his or her personal values and interest, the work would feel like a purposeful "calling" rather than a mere job. Respondents also cited other factors in deciding to change careers such as greater income potential and opportunities, dissatisfaction with current job, and more time for the family, in that particular order.

Barriers

In changing careers, respondents have cited that their top considerations when making career transitions are to actively search for career opportunities in the field of their interests, have discussions with family, friends and acquaintances about the issue, and to pursue further studies. A few also want to consult a career counselor. One respondent claimed that she is willing to do volunteer work to gain experience in the career that she wants to shift to. There were also two respondents who mentioned the importance of a healthy spiritual life in making a career transition.

Results of the survey also showed that the main barrier



in career transitions are economic or monetary conditions, followed by lack of experience in field of interest, advice of family and friends, and age. Many people fear that making a career switch will be fraught with risks, but not making a move is also risky, says Ibarra, noting that people can reach the end of their career routes without ever fulfilling their true potential.

Moving towards destination

Career transition occurs through small wins rather than a grand expensive design. It is a change that does not happen overnight. Changing careers is not merely a matter of changing the work we do. Activities such as engaging in the practice of finding people who can be mentors and role models, participating in project assignments to get experience or taking courses and investing in further training are some of the small wins that could eventually lead to one's career destination.

According to Professor Ibarra, one's career transition may be

likened to a voyage from one place to another. Like any other voyage, there is a departure, a disorienting time of travel and finally a destination. Here are some activities which could guide you towards a successful career transition:

1. Crafting experiments. Trying out new activities and professional roles on a small scale before making a major commitment to a different path.

2. Shifting connections. Developing contacts who can open doors to new worlds, and finding role models and new peer groups to guide and benchmark your progress.

3. Making sense. Finding or creating catalysts and triggers for change and using them as occasions to rework your working identity in light of emerging possibilities.

A final advice to career shakers: what you can do, or dream you can do, begin it!

(Ms Dumalaon is currently pursuing her master's in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University.)

PMAP'S 43rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE SET



This year's most awaited gathering of the nationwide membership of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines will be held at the Crowne Plaza, Galleria Manila in Ortigas Center, Pasig City on Sept. 27 to 29. With the theme "Inspiring MVP's, Creating New Heroes", the conference aims to further build and strengthen the HR role as a valued partner and player in business organizations, showcase best practices that would add more value to HR profession, and enhance the emerging role of HR as creator of new heroes. Shown from left: Imelda Centeno, PMAP VP and conference chair, Paul Rene Lee, Crowne Plaza's general manager and Trixie de Chavez, Crowne Plaza's meetings director.

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Research shows people want to keep on working after retirement

LONDON — PEOPLE around the world want to work past their traditional retirement ages and choose for themselves when to step off the career ladder, according to a global survey by banking giant HSBC.

The bank questioned 21,000 people and 6,000 employers across 20 countries and territories for its 2006 survey on attitudes towards ageing, retirement and increased longevity.

"According to HSBC's research, people the world over want to continue working past traditional retirement ages," the bank said. It added that 72 percent of respondents rejected the notion of a mandatory retirement age, believing that employees should be able to carry on working "as long as they are capable of doing the job well."

HSBC noted: "People want to abandon traditional models of retirement in favor of self-sufficiency and a mix of work and leisure."

The report, entitled "The Future of Retirement," comes amid an ongoing debate in Europe about the need to reform state pension systems to cope with the rising cost of rapidly ageing populations.

In Western Europe, workers are increasingly being asked to work until 65 years of age before receiving state pension benefits.

"Given a choice, most people (36 percent) think their government should enforce additional private savings, rather than increase the retirement age (23 percent), raise taxes (12 per-

cent) or reduce pensions (12 percent)," it read.

HSBC chief executive Stephen Green, who is due to become group chairman next month, noted that governments and businesses "cannot afford to shy away from the enormous challenges and opportunities presented by global ageing." Survey participants had a variety of reasons for carrying on working—with just one in four people choosing the need for extra cash.

Of those questioned, 22 percent said that they needed "something meaningful" to do with their time, while 13 percent wanted to "connect with others" in a social environment.

Keeping physically active was cited as a key reason for 21 percent of people, while 22 percent wanted the mental stimulation of the workplace.

"Universally, people associate retirement with freedom, happiness and satisfaction," the report added.

"Family, friends and fitness define the quality of later life, not money, and people want to remain active, contributory and involved in some kind of work in their later years." Some 43 percent of those polled said that they wanted to fund their retirement either through savings or by continuing to work, possibly on a part-time basis.

Meanwhile, around 49 percent of employers questioned said that older workers are just as productive and motivated as their younger employees. APP

Seminar on formulating personnel policies set

THE PERSONNEL Management Association of the Philippines is sponsoring a seminar on Formulating and Manualizing Personnel Policies and Procedures is scheduled on May 3-4, 2006. Registration fee is P7,500 for PMAP members and P9,500 for Non PMAP members. The program aims the participants to understand and appreciate the meaning and importance of "knowledge" and "knowledge management" (KM); understand and appreciate the link between KM and business results; be able to measure, track, evaluate and prioritize knowledge assets, knowledge processes and knowledge enablers for attaining business goals and be familiar with some KM strategies and tools related to HR management.

Registration fee is P7,500 for PMAP Members and P5,000 for Non PMAP members. The program aims to orient participants with the requirements of the Labor Code in the implementation of laws on Labor Standards. At the end of the session, it is expected that the participants would be better equipped to formulate, administer and

recruitment and placement as a business function.

HR Executive Series on Knowledge Management is scheduled on May 11. Registration fee is P7,500 for PMAP members and P9,500 for Non PMAP members. The program aims the participants to understand and appreciate the meaning and importance of "knowledge" and "knowledge management" (KM); understand and appreciate the link between KM and business results; be able to measure, track, evaluate and prioritize knowledge assets, knowledge processes and knowledge enablers for attaining business goals and be familiar with some KM strategies and tools related to HR management.

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3G with HSDPA: First in Asia-Pacific, a first from Globe!

Following its successful rollout of 3G services including HSDPA or "3.5G", Globe Telecom is now the first telecom company in the Asia-Pacific region and among less than 20 in the world to have launched HSDPA/3.5G capabilities to customers. This technology boosts the functionality of 3G by allowing faster data transfer speeds and Internet browsing, while still letting subscribers enjoy basic 3G services such as video calls and video streaming. With its launch of Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA, Globe is now building the network of the future.

Hi-speed mobile Internet

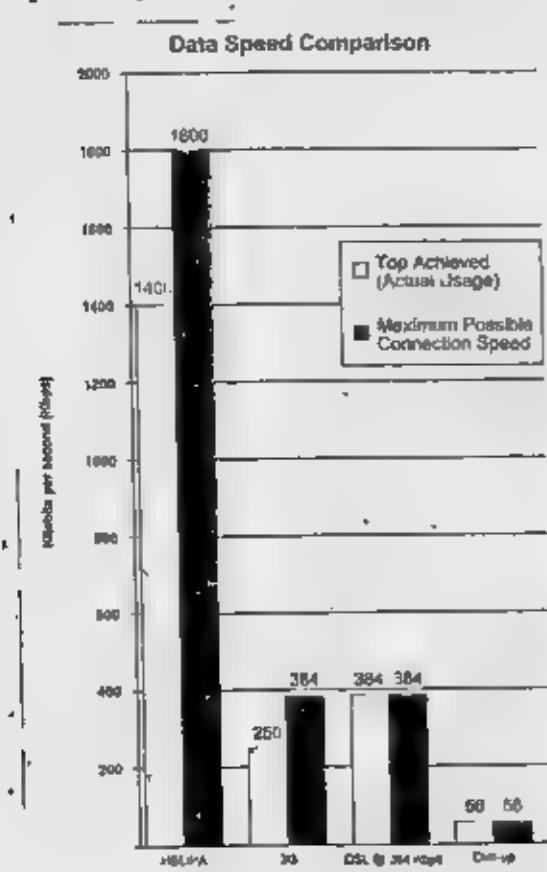
HSDPA (High Speed Downlink Packet Access, commonly referred to as "3.5G") enables data transfer rates of up to 1.4 Megabits per second (Mbps) with peaks of up to 1.8 Mbps - rather than the previous 384 kilobits for 3G. With an HSDPA-data card for example, browsing the Internet on your laptop will be up to 25 times faster than dial-up Internet access. Mobile customers can now use their notebook or mobile phone to surf the Internet at broadband speeds and download large volumes of data such as movies or large e-mail attachments faster than before.



Globe conducted the first live HSDPA demo in the Philippines at the SEA Games Media Bureau in December 2005.

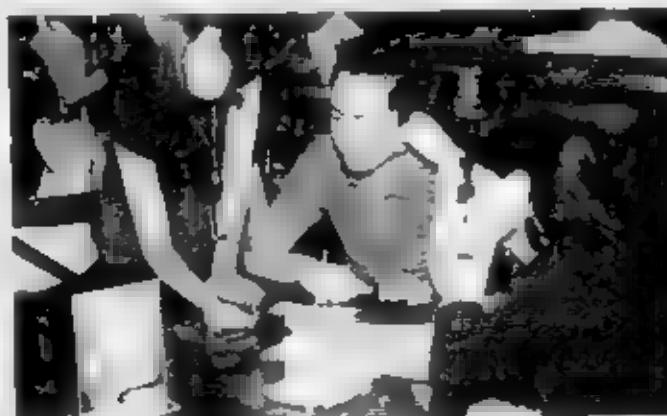
HSDPA technology lays the groundwork for the network of the future as it upgrades the capabilities of 3G. The launch of Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA already anticipates that subscribers will demand greater functionality from 3G as the service becomes more pervasive and accessible.

Superior speeds, more powerful connectivity



Enhanced mobile experience

With the rapid connection speeds that it delivers, Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA opens up a lot of potential for new applications. Users can easily download full-length music tracks or large video files, and experience video streaming or mobile TV. They can also access exclusive content from various partners, including news reports from ABS-CBN, CNN and GMA.



The video calling and streaming services enabled by 3G will also be available to users of Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA.

In addition, Globe prepaid and postpaid subscribers can also avail of 3G basic services such as video calling (which allows the calling parties to see each other on their 3G mobile phones), video sharing (which lets users capture and send video clips to each other), and multimedia streaming.



Live video streaming gives a glimpse of the high-speed multimedia services made possible by Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA.

Limitless possibilities

Subscribers who tried out the Globe Mobile Broadband 3G service when it was introduced earlier this year have already expressed enthusiastic feedback on the rapid web browsing speeds that it enables. Allen Bacallan, Director for Management Information Systems of General Milling Corporation, shares: "I used my 3G phone as a laptop modem in business meetings. My friends and business partners were impressed by the connection speed." Prulife UK's Vice President for Information Systems Brett Medel agrees: "3G gives me the freedom to download technical updates, check my email, or even watch TV while on the



3G revolutionized telecommunications, and Globe has taken it to the next level with its 3.5G network.

go. Busy people appreciate having services like these that enrich both their professional and personal lives." Even showbiz personality Donita Rose was excited by the potential of the technology. "It's even better than having a broadband connection because you can access information anytime, anywhere," she says.



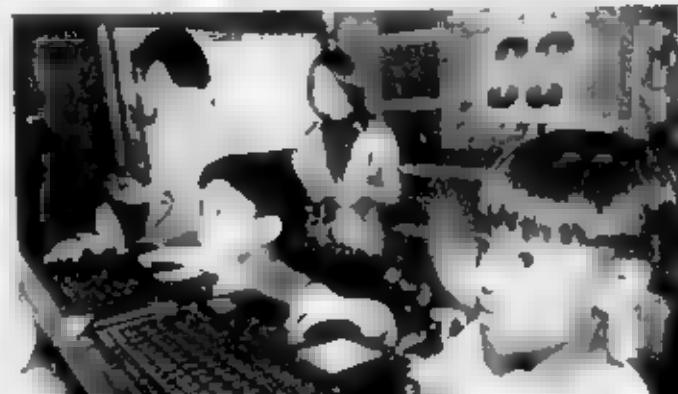
Just as 3G wowed the business community with its debut at the Globe 2nd CEO Golf Cup, HSDPA is set to make waves among tech-savvy Pinoys.

With the advent of Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA, the possibilities have expanded even more. Globe expects a similarly eager reception from Pinoys, much like the response to the company's earlier innovations like text messaging, MMS, over-the-air reloading, and mobile commerce.

The future for real

From SMS to MMS and even mobile commerce, Filipinos have easily and eagerly embraced new developments in communications technology brought about by Globe's pioneering moves.

Through Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA, Filipinos have the unique privilege of being the first in Asia-Pacific to try out the exciting possibilities of this new technology. Among other telcos in the region, several are also looking into rolling out HSDPA, such as Japan's NTT DoCoMo and Hong Kong's CSL. Apart from Cingular Wireless in the USA and Wataniya Telecom in Kuwait, most HSDPA networks that are already in service are located in Europe. At least 70 other mobile providers worldwide are in the testing or deployment stages, proving the global promise of this revolutionary technology.



Filipino kids get to experience the technology of the future with 3G web browsing, now further enhanced with HSDPA.

Globe subscribers can now experience Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA at regular 2G rates. Demos are available at selected Globe Business Centers in Metro Manila. The service is available in key cities nationwide, and Globe is continually working to expand its coverage to bring this new service to more Filipinos all over the country and even worldwide.

Ang malakas

mas pinajakas pa

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Globe Hi-speed
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Up to 25 times
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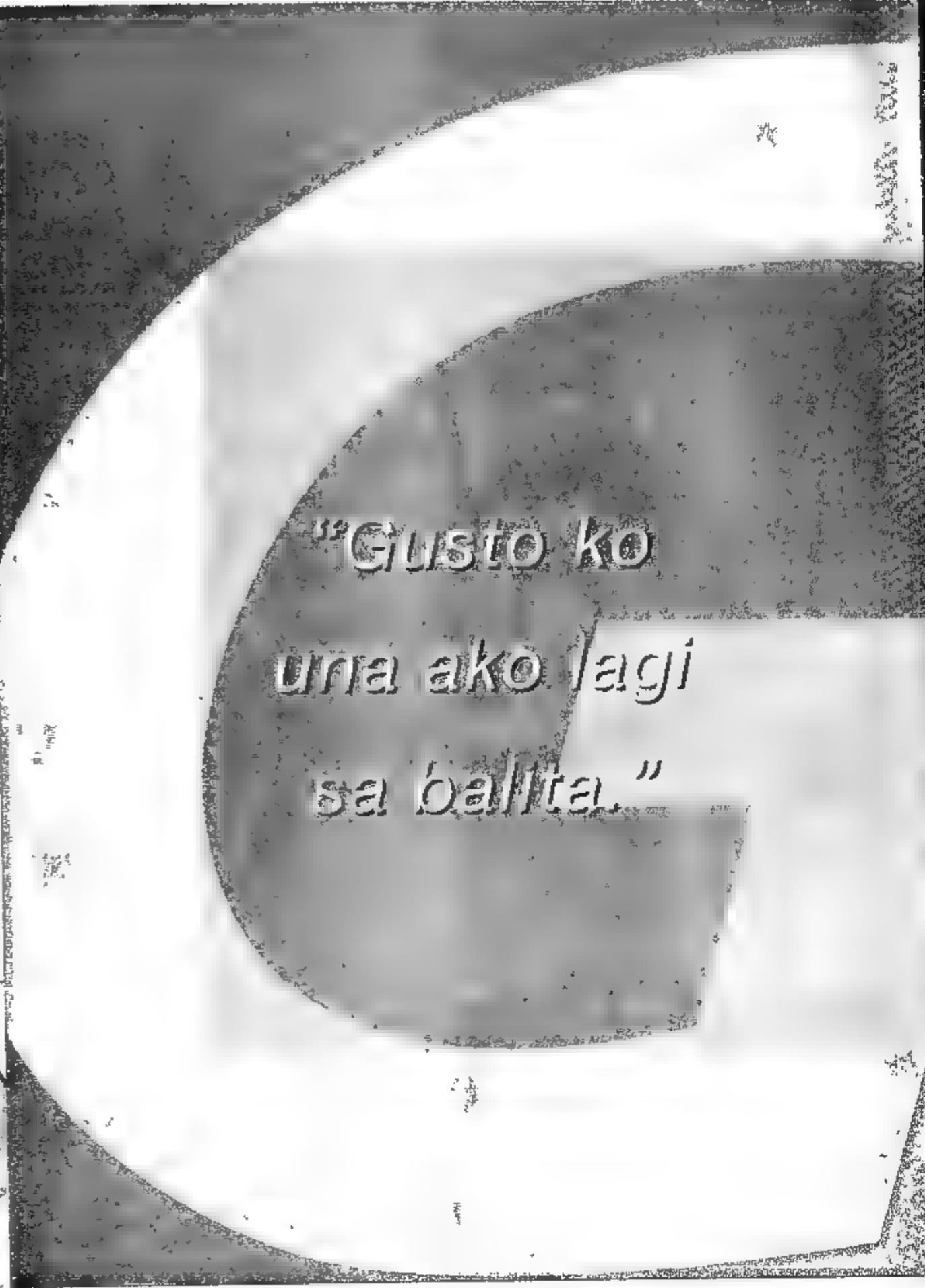
“Gusto ko
Internet cafe
na ang taxi.”

"Ayaw ko
ng flying kiss,
gusto ko
lips to lips."

Globe
Video IDD

First to offer
international video
calling. Now
available to countries
like Hong Kong,
Singapore, Taiwan
and Austria.





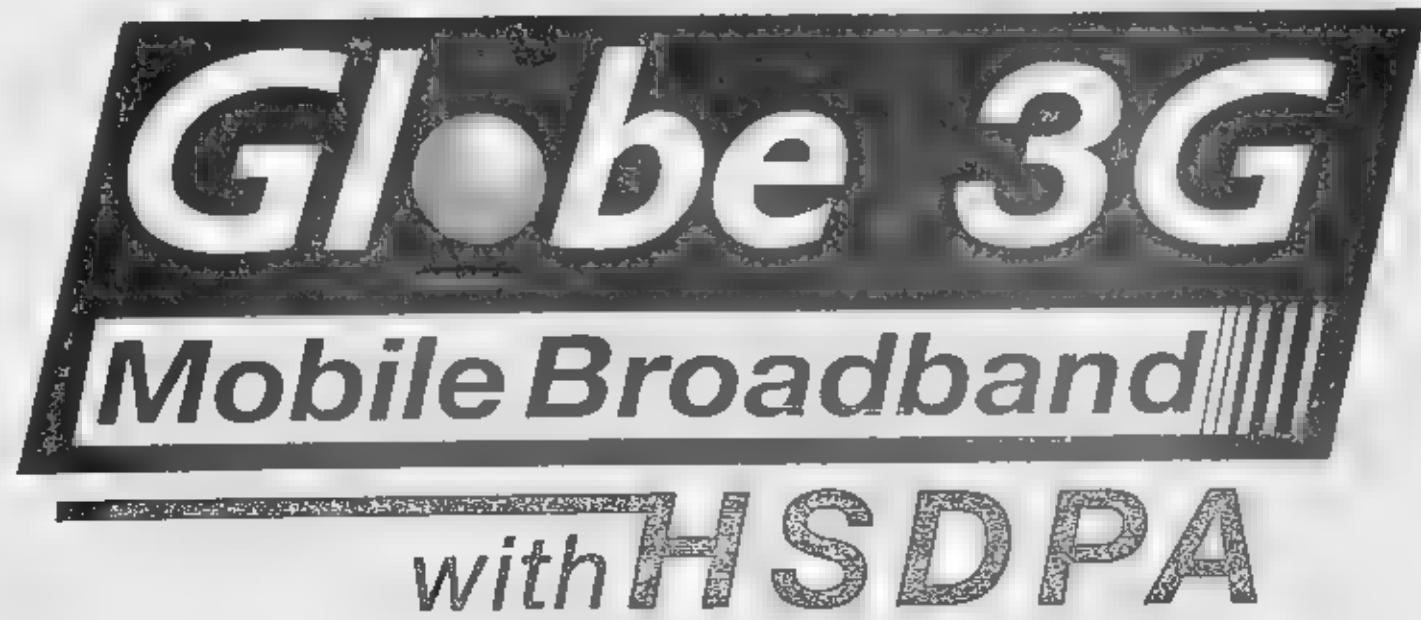
Globe Video Streaming

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with HSDPA

Globe Hi-speed Internet Browsing

Imagine being able to connect to the Internet and download large files in a matter of seconds, wherever you are, through your data card.

At its top speed of up to 1.4 Megabits per second (Mbps), you can download a 4MB mp3 file in around 20 seconds – more than twenty-five times faster than dial-up. Best of all, Globe gives you this enhanced Internet browsing speed at current browsing rates: only P0.15 per Kbps (until May 30, 2006).

YAHOO!

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Get top-notch entertainment anywhere you are from GMA (*Startalk and Bubble Gang*). Take a peek at the latest goings-on "sa bahay ni kuya" with Pinoy Big Brother Behind the Scenes. Have a healthy dose of laughter with Rex Navarrete or Adam Sandler comedy videos, learn fitness tips from Tina Juan, and get the freshest scoop in sports from *Game Plan*. You can also watch all your favorite shows from ABS-CBN and GMA live via multimedia streaming.



ABS-CBN



Globe Video Call and Video IDD

See and talk to all your friends via local video calls for the same local voice call rates (until May 30, 2006).

You can also connect to family members overseas with Video IDD. This service is now available in Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan, as well as in seven countries in Europe: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Finland, Hungary, Luxembourg, and Poland. Now, you can hear your loved ones' voices and see them face-to-face at affordable rates, equivalent to regular IDD calls (until May 30, 2006).

Globe 3G roaming is also available to postpaid subscribers for outbound calls from Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Until May 30, 2006, you can enjoy this service at regular operator rates.

ENJOY GLOBE MOBILE BROADBAND 3G WITH HSDPA SERVICES NOW!

What do I need to start using the services?

- A Globe 3G-activated SIM Card
- A 3G handset, or a 3G/HSDPA data card

Globe will automatically activate your current SIM (provided you are using a 3G handset).

Is it available for prepaid?

Yes. It is open to all Globe subscribers, both postpaid and prepaid.

How do I check for a 3G signal?

- Under the <NETWORK> settings menu of your phone, select either Dual Mode or Auto Mode. This will allow your phone to function whether you are in 3G or 2G/GSM coverage. Depending on your handset, your phone may restart after you switch to Dual or Auto network mode.

- Notice your phone's signal indicator. If you are within 3G coverage, a "3G" icon (for some phones: a bubble, dot or other shape) should appear beside your signal indicator.

How do I make a Video Call?

Just dial the number of the person you wish to do a video call with (he must be using a 3G activated SIM and a 3G handset, not necessarily the same brand). If your phone has a dedicated video call key, press that key. Once the call connects, you have successfully made a video call.

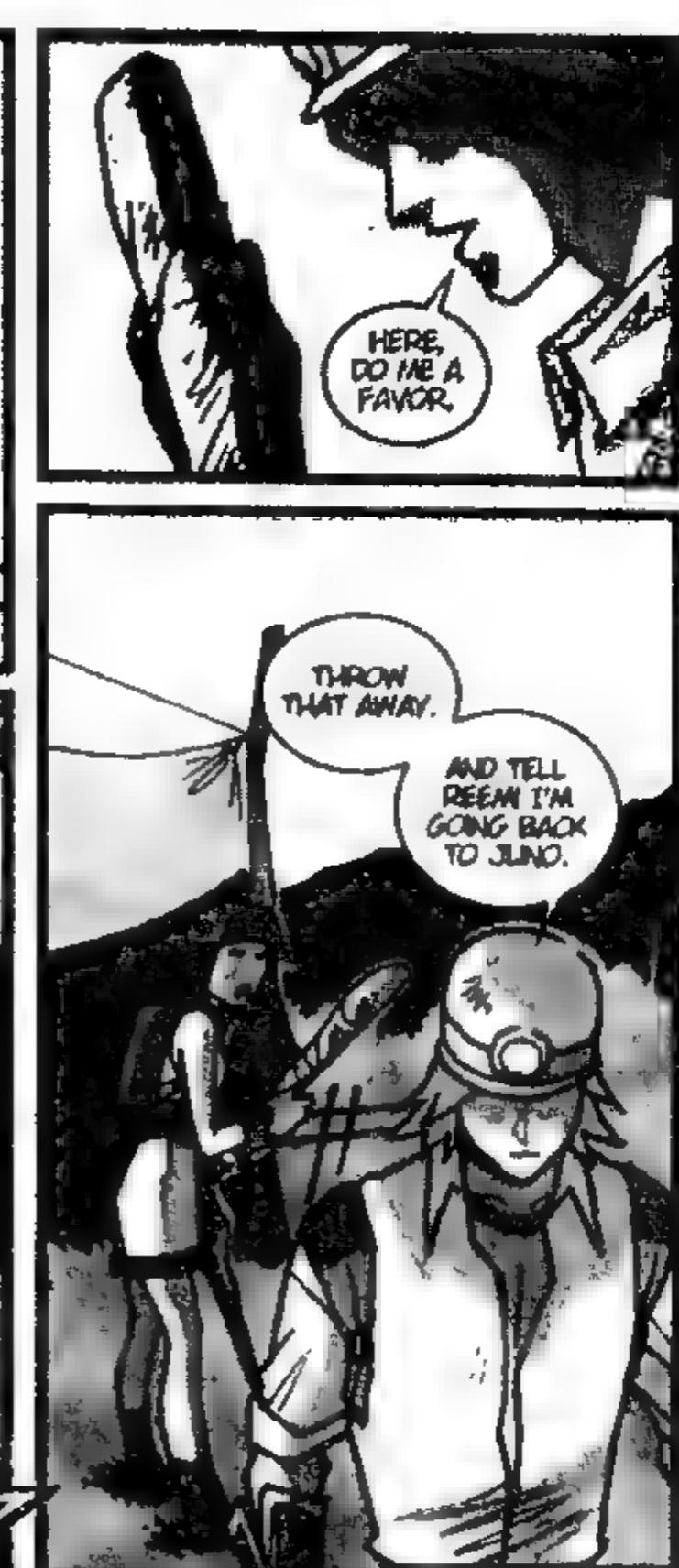
(Only Globe-to-Globe video calls are allowed. For more info, call Globe at 211 or 730-1000.)

APRIL 30, 2006

1

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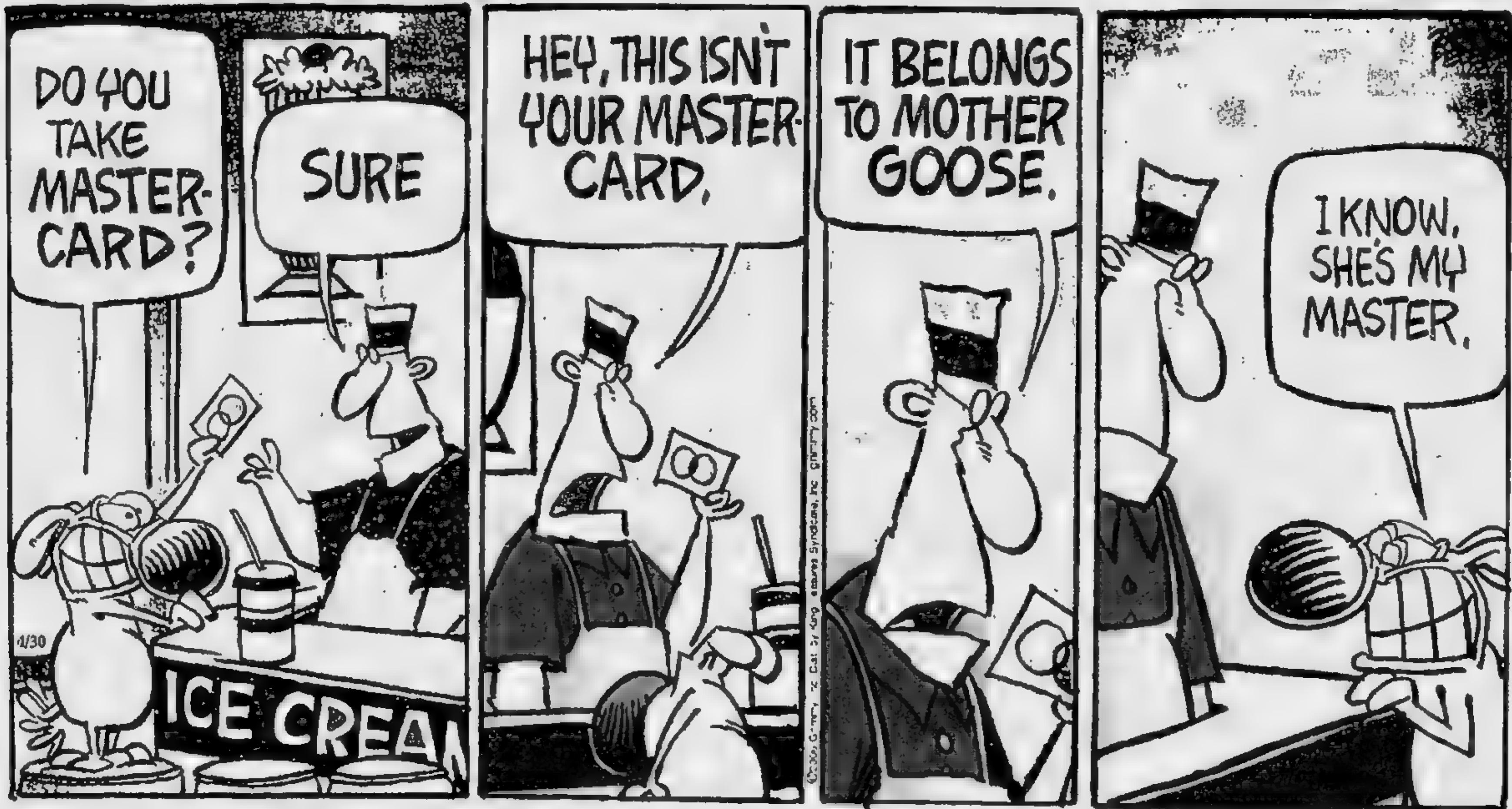
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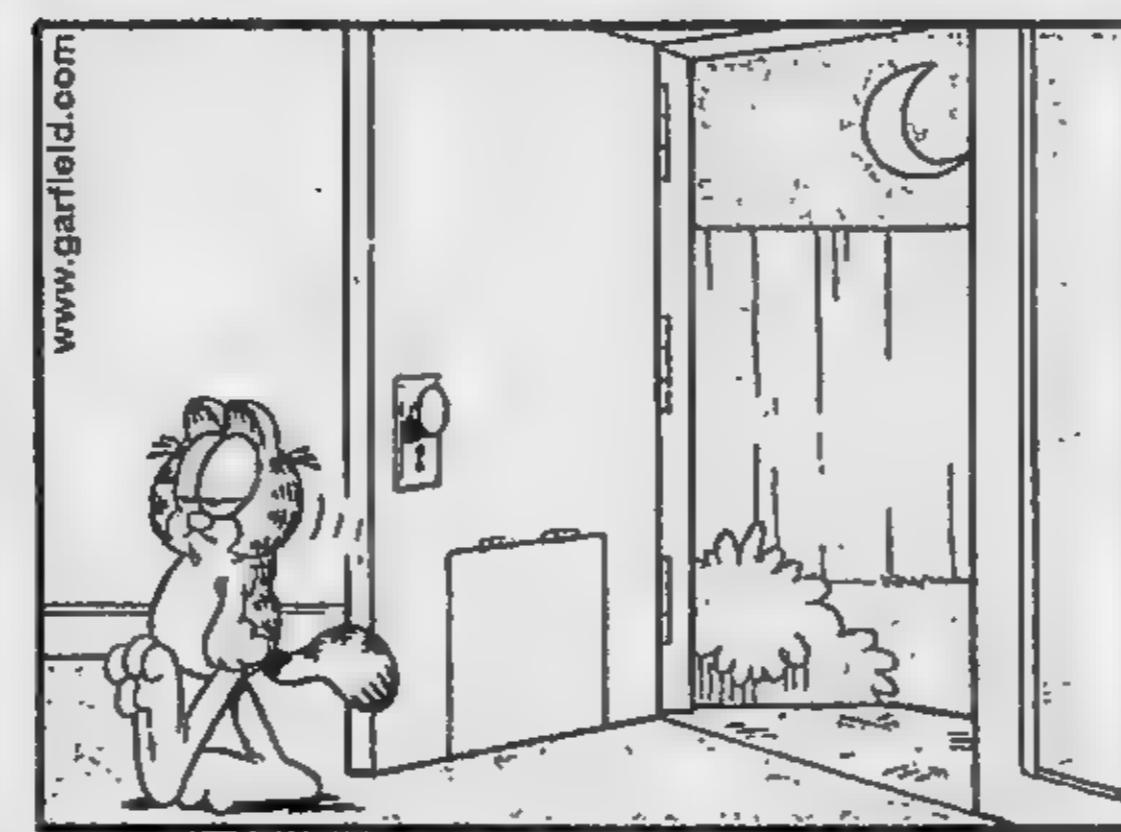
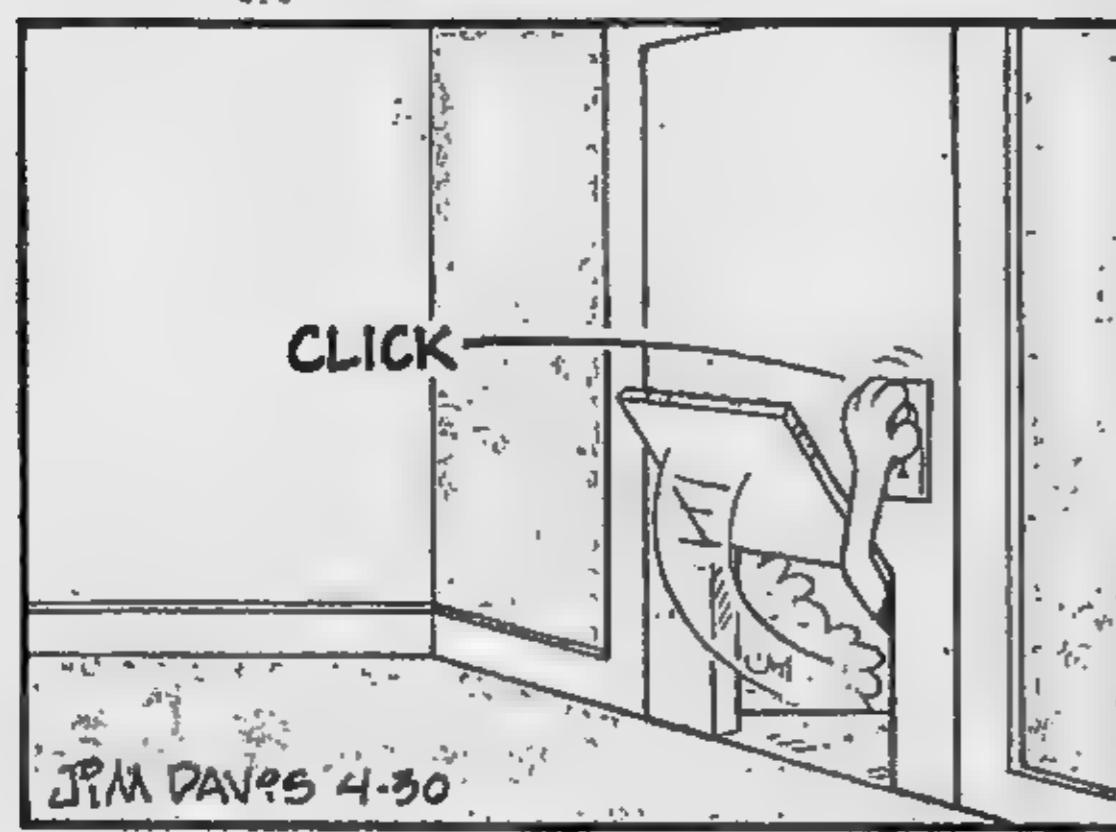
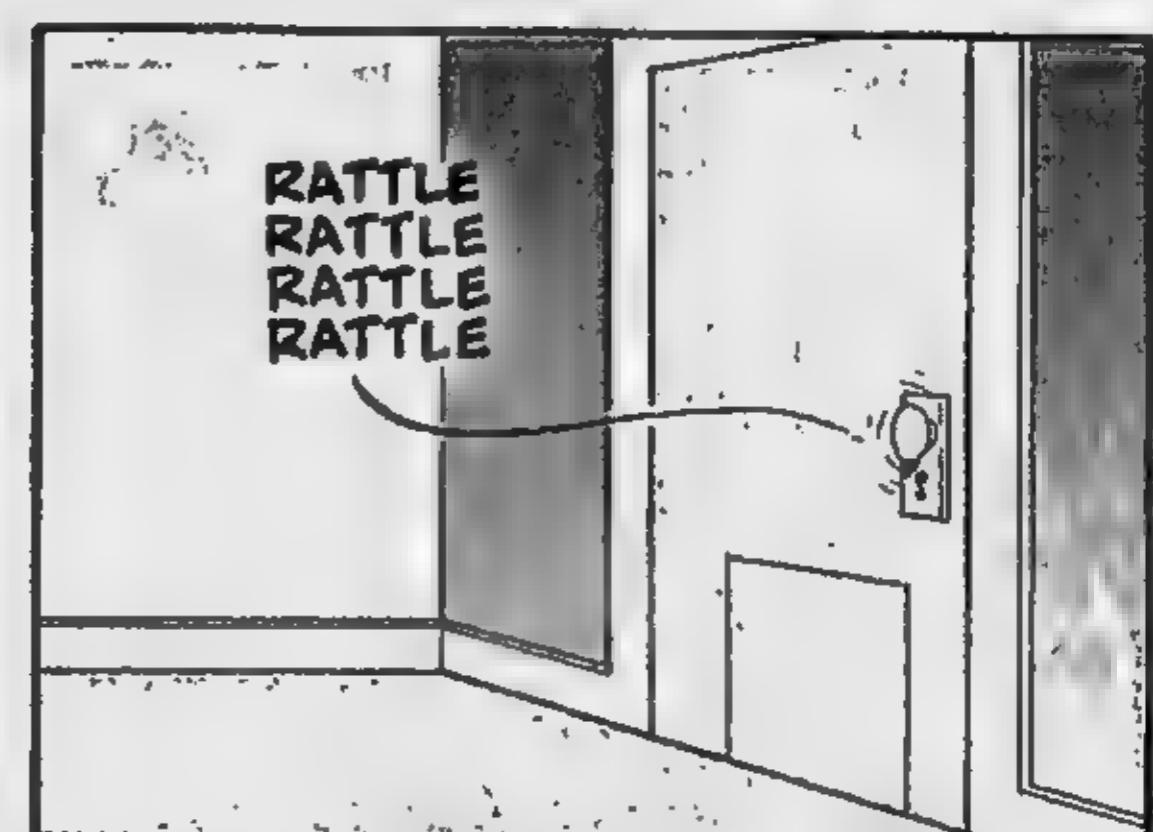
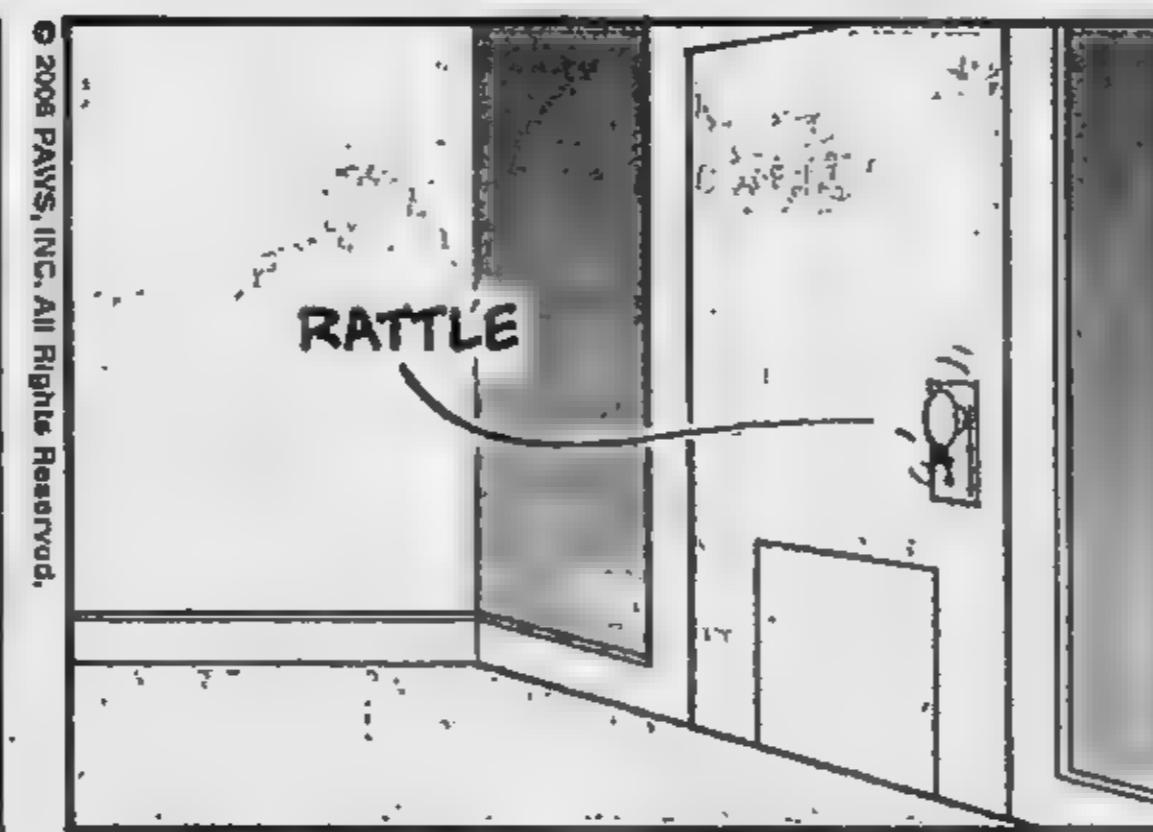
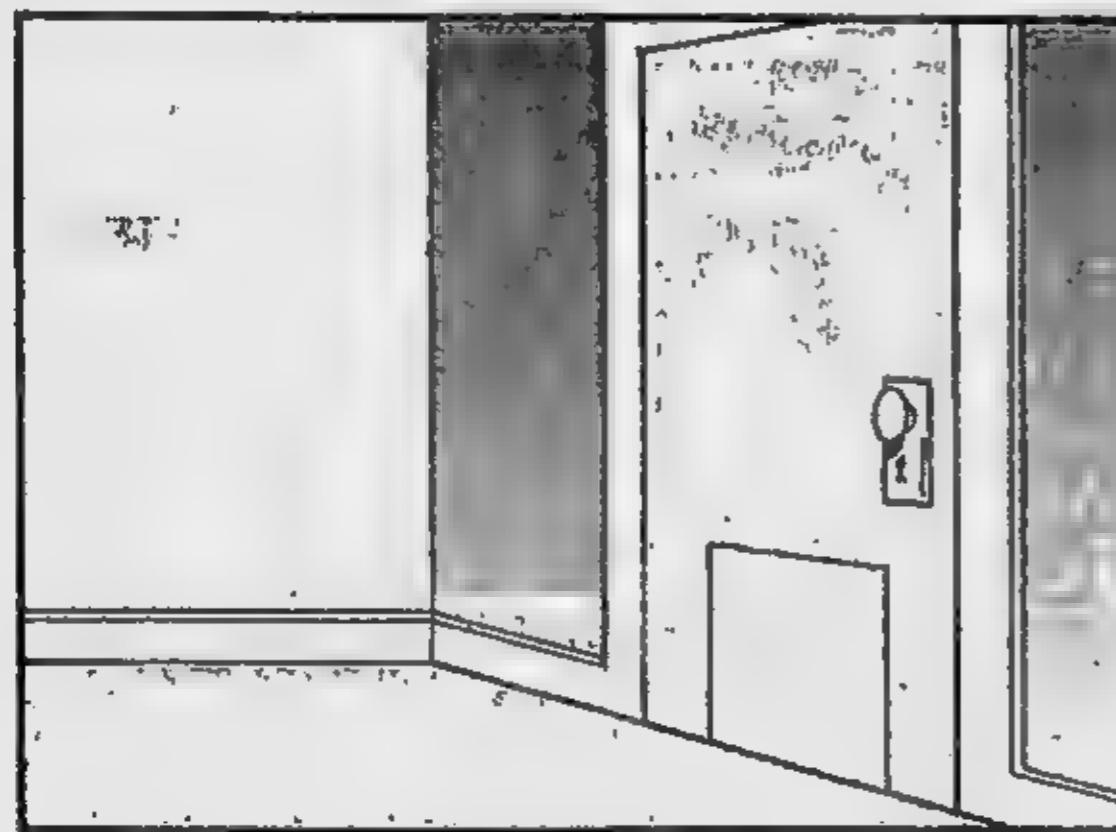
MOOMOO HUNTERS

BY MANGO COMICS



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

**FULL HOUSE**

BY STEPH BRAVO



April 30, 2006

sunday INQUIRER magazine

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

Mother nature lays down the law, therefore the law, should serve nature,

says this environmental lawyer

**Antonio A.
Oposa, Jr.'s**

love for the sea
has led him to
battle illegal
fishers and those
who would destroy
the country's
marine paradise.

His weapon of
choice? Laws
that protect the
bounties of
the earth

by Ma. Ceres P. Doyo
photographs by Lito Tocson

ERE is one lawyer who says he is not in love with law, not in the way that others wax poetic over legal philosophies and the sheer beauty they find therein.

But then environmental lawyer Antonio "Tony" Oposa, Jr. is not a conventional lawyer. When his Harvard Law classmates picked him to deliver the valedictory address at their graduation, Oposa did not dwell on the law but gave a speech titled "On Friendship and Laughter."

"For me, law is a tool, a thinking tool to guide human conduct," says this precocious lawyer. "I was not in love with law when I started off," he adds.

But UP and Harvard law, with a lot of help from Mother Nature, settled in with him. They unmade Oposa's old horizons and broke open new worlds that were lay hidden. In much the same way, life-altering and life-threatening events in his youth had always forced him to contemplate the crossroads before him.

Even in those early days he had always found refuge in nature's bosom. And now, for his defense of nature, he

expects to make not just friends, but also enemies.

Three weeks ago, on April 12, Oposa's close friend and partner in the Visayan Sea advocacy was shot several times as he entered his home in Cebu. Elpido de la Victoria succumbed to gunshot wounds the following day. Although the motive has yet to be established, Oposa says it must be related to their campaign against illegal fishing to rehabilitate the marine paradise in the area.

"It was beyond words," Oposa says of the loss. "I sat down with my wife Greely and could not say anything for several minutes."

Oposa is a team leader of the Visayan Sea Squadron, an outreach group of the Law of Nature Foundation which he heads. The "squadron" hopes to preserve the threatened waters of the Visayan Sea. This area is at the apex of the fabled Visayan Marine Triangle that lies at the heart of the Sulu-Sulawesi eco-region. Supposedly the richest marine eco-region in the world, this region stretches from the Philippines to Indonesia.

To page 2



Antonio

A sea battle is continuously being waged, with Oposa's group charging against the destroyers. In March 2004, he led a raid by operatives from the National Bureau of Investigation, Navy, maritime police and Bantay Dagat. The group seized one ton of blasting powder and sent the culprits to jail. Oposa led this same team to serve warrants of arrest to owners of big commercial fishing fleets who were once deemed untouchable. Later that year, he led a special police team in a raid that resulted in the largest seizure ever of blasting powder and detonating devices and the arrest of the leaders of the illegal syndicate.

Oposa pioneered the practice of environmental law in the Philippines and is one of Asia's experts in this field. For his work in advancing environmental law enforcement, Oposa was chosen one of The Ten Outstanding Young Men by the Jaycees. He was included in the United Nations' Environmental Programme Global 500 Roll of Honor.

The waters off Cebu, Oposa's home province, have always been part of his coming of age. But so was fire, the ravages of which, he wears on his body like a birthmark. "They say time heals all wounds, even scars begin to fade," he philosophizes. "And didn't C.S. Lewis say that suffering is the core of all art?"

Oposa was born in Manila 52 years ago. Shortly after his birth, his mother who had the beginnings of cancer, and his father, a doctor, left for the United States. Oposa and his two older siblings were left in the care of their paternal grandparents in Cebu City. While there, his father was prevailed upon to stay as chief of surgery in a San Francisco hospital. It was not until six years later that they returned with three US-born children in tow.

Mischiefous and hyperactive

Being the apple of his wealthy grandpa's eyes, Oposa remained in the old man's custody until he reached adulthood. He had everything he could ask for.

In school he was the teacher's pest. "I was not a bad kid, I was just so mischievous and hyperactive," he laughs. It must have been undiagnosed ADHD (Attention Deficiency and Hyperactivity Disorder), he says. Whatever it was, it meant going from one school to another.

"He might not have been in love with school but early on, Oposa was already in love with the sea. "My grandfather had a beach property in Bantayan Island off Cebu and I loved spending time there despite the primitive amenities."

Oposa went to De La Salle University in Manila and graduated with a business administration degree in 1975. He was 20, restless and somewhat bewildered. He was also rich.

"I wanted to live poor," he confesses. He's had his share of flashy cars, girlfriends, the good life. Once again he was drawn to Bantayan Island. He was back to basics. "I was like a Robinson Crusoe," he recalls. "And I also had a Man Friday named Undo. We would fish, cook rice in an open fire, sleep on the bare floor." It was a period of introspection.

After a while, he went back to Manila and worked in the Bureau of Foreign Trade and later, in an investment bank. "I thought, I don't want to be counting the money of other people."

Oposa would always heed the call of Bantayan Island. But something else was crying for his attention. "I realized that I had a reading deficiency. Maybe I was dyslexic. I wanted to really know how to read, understand and enjoy words. So I took speed reading lessons."

In 1977, Oposa applied at the UP College of Law and was accepted. Things were going well until 1979, during his third

year in the college of law, when a tragic event occurred.

It was the Christmas break and Oposa was home in Cebu. One night he woke up to the sound of crackling flames and the smell of smoke. The house was on fire!

Oposa braved the heat and smoke and rushed downstairs. "I thought, if I die, I'd like people to know I died fighting. I went straight into the fire in order to get out. The door that was supposed to be locked simply opened for me. But my arm and head were on fire and my skin was dripping like wax."

Surgery and skin grafts

Neighbors wrapped him and rushed him to the hospital. After five days at the Perpetual Succor Hospital, Oposa was airlifted to Manila. Burn doctor Alfredo Ramirez attended to him at the Manila Doctors Hospital. "Seventy percent of my body was burned and I had to have skin treatment every day. I went through a series of surgery and skin grafts. By then I had been told that Undo and an American guest had perished in the fire. My widowed grandmother who lived downstairs was able to escape. I cried out to God, whoever You are, why did You do this to me?"

Oposa started to worry about the effects of strong drugs on his brain. "I did a lot of brain exercise. I memorized long poems. I also did a lot of reflection. I was experiencing a kind of poverty."

With his scars and all, Oposa went back to law school. He organized the UP Law Forensic Society. He even got the competing law fraternities to plant talisay trees in front of the college. He was back to his garrulous self. Oposa graduated in 1982 and passed the bar that same year.

"I've always wanted to work with people, not with corporations," Oposa says. "I did criminal law and mostly pro bono work." He also worked with Syac Salazar law office for a while.

In 1985, Oposa married Greely Remulla (of the Cavite political clan), an accountant. (They have four children: Juan Antonio, Anna Rosario, Jose Alfonso and Jaime Agustin.) "I sang at my own wedding," he boasts.

Oposa (second from right) and his dive buddies on another environmental adventure

"While my bride was walking toward me, I sang 'Ikaw Lamang.'

The couple settled in Cebu. But soon restlessness set in. "My wife told me to find a specialty. There was one thing I really cared about—nature." He had seen blast fishing and all forms of abuse of the sea.

He consulted UP Law Center's Prof. Florida Ruth Romero and lawyer Myrna Feliciano who familiarized him with nature-related laws and cases. Prof. (now Supreme Court Justice) Leonardo Quisumbing, whose advice he also sought, got him interested in environmental law.

But all the while, the question in Oposa's mind was, "Who will pay me my fees, the fish?"

In 1988, Oposa got a scholarship to study energy planning and the environment at the University of Oslo in Norway. When he came back he thought of suing the government using the concept of intergenerational responsibility. This meant lawyering for the cause of chil-

dren and the generations to come in their quest to preserve the environment. "They say, you are either intelligent or you are daring," he laughs.

The Oposa vs. Factoran case (Fulgencio Factoran was environmental secretary then) was going to be a landmark case. "To the credit of Factoran, he called me and suggested that we raise the issue in a forum. He also reduced the number of logging concessions and passed an administrative order banning logging in virgin forests."

Landmark case

But the case was dismissed in the lower court because the judge ruled that children have no personality to sue. The Supreme Court however ruled that children have the right based on "intergenerational responsibility." Oposa says the landmark case is discussed in environmental law subjects all over the world.

One thing led to another until restlessness overtook Oposa again.

With his family, he headed for Harvard for masteral studies in environmental law. It was not entirely a cerebral exercise however. "I reflected on my mortality. God, I prayed, give me another 25 years and you will not regret it."

In 1998 a paper he wrote in Harvard became the foundation for citizens' suits and for provisions in the Clean Air Act and the Solid Waste Management Act.

"When my youngest son Nano was born, I was overcome by the thought, what if I had only six months to live?" He thought of writing a book. Thereupon he informed his clients that he was going to terminate his services. "I gave up all, I even sold some properties to finance my project."

Suddenly he was overcome with doubt. "I was having an identity crisis. In 1999 I went to then Supreme Court Justice Hilario Davide. Manong Jun, I said, what am I doing? What am I?" He poured out his heart to him.

Davide's advice: "Continue your book. You are an environmental advo-

cate."

"I knew then that I was an environmentalist, using words and the law as tools," declares Oposa whose personal resume describes him as an environmental advocate not a lawyer.

The heart of it

He sat down to write two huge books—"The Laws of Nature and Other Stories" (colorful and easy to understand) and "A Legal Arsenal for the Philippine Environment." No copyrights needed for those who want to publish more copies. He also wrote "Environmental Law" in the Philippines.

His love affair with the sea began in Bantayan Island because when he discovered the Visayan Sea in 2003, he says. Why, he was always at the heart of it. He converted his beach house into a learning center where kids and adults could learn about solid waste management, coral reef protection and marine ecosystems. He also put up marine and bird sanctuaries.

Because of the tempest arising from the destruction of the Visayan Sea, Oposa is working to establish the so-called maximum sustainable yield (MSY) that would set limits to commercial fishing in the area. His argument: people cannot have everything to their hearts' content and end up with what he calls "tragedy of the commons." "We are all losers that way," he argues.

But even for this committed lawyer, there is a time for work and a time for play. When he's not battling environmental foes, Oposa scuba dives, rides horses, plays tennis, sails, writes and gardens. He also teaches environmental law at UP and the Philippine Judicial Academy and serves as chair of the Philippine Bar Association Environment Action Team.

He continues to serve farmers' and fishermen's groups pro bono and acts as consultant to governments and international agencies. The fish, as he said, cannot pay his fees.

Interested parties may contact The Law of Nature Foundation at thelawofnature@yahoo.com.

testament to the untruthfulness of the allegation.

Mr. Marquez complained that there was no mention of Jimenez's supposed role in the sale of Equitable PCIBank and PLDT under the term of President Joseph Estrada. But surely, such details were not relevant to the general theme of the article since Mr. Jimenez was imprisoned not for any wrongdoing committed in the Philippines but for infractions he allegedly committed in the US.

If we will go by Mr. Marquez's faulty premise that omissions in stories equate to "environmental journalism," then all journalists and their editors will be put under suspicion. Of course, writers and editors remove details not relevant to stories in the interest of not overloading readers with irrelevant information and in consideration of valuable column space.

Maybe, Mr. Marquez, who obviously hates Jimenez (for reasons known only to him), must have been annoyed by the wonderful vi-

sual presentation of the article (kudos to the INQUIRER's art department), thus his poison letter. But the fairness and objectivity of the INQUIRER, coupled by the lively way it presents news to us, its readers, are what make the INQUIRER a great read.

To conclude, I just wish that we Filipinos would be able to discard the crab mentality for which we have been known. Mr. Marquez should be told not to be judgmental of people, and to be man enough to reveal his true identity (first name and his address). Instead of cowardly resorting to sending his letter via email without the usual complete address.

I, too, am sending this letter through the email but only for its quick transmittal to PDI and with my full address, to prove the point.

REYNER AARON VILLASENOR
Central Student Council Auditor
College of Political Science
University of Santo Tomas
España, Sampaloc Manila



TRUE IDENTITY

I am saddened by the letter to the editor written by one G. Marquez which the Sunday INQUIRER Magazine published last April 2, 2006. It was an unfair and malicious indictment of the Philippine Daily INQUIRER for a story on Mark Jimenez which, I believe, was fair, objective and in keeping with the highest standards of journalism.

With nary a piece of evidence to support his insinuation that monetary considerations must have been behind the Jimenez article, Mr. Marquez crucified the writer, as well as the editors of the INQUIRER, through insinuations of wrongdoing.

But I commend the INQUIRER for being forthright in publishing the letter verbatim despite the letter-writer being petty and his failure to appreciate an uplifting story of a man who has rediscovered the right path after being imprisoned in the US. The fact that the INQUIRER allotted space for a letter which should have gone straight into the wastebasket is a

testament to the untruthfulness of the allegation.

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All in the Game

by Eric S. Caruncho
photographs by August dela Cruz

IX years ago, avid cyclist Paolo Mercado drove to Morong, Rizal, with his bike strapped to the roof of his car, for his usual long weekend ride to Infanta, Quezon and back.

What he got was the scariest ride of his life.

When he arrived at the prearranged meeting place, he was met not by his usual bike buddies, but by three men with guns. He was being 'jacked'. The best he could have hoped for was that they'd at least leave him the bike, so he wouldn't have to walk home. But they took the car, the bike, and him.

When the car drove past a crowded intersection, Mercado attempted to call for help. His kidnappers beat and pistol-whipped him. Next thing he knew, he was lying dazed and bruised somewhere in Rizal: no car, no bike but lucky to be alive.

The trauma might have scarred him for life, but it didn't dampen his enthusiasm for cycling.

A few months ago, Mercado and his wife Dana opened the Loyola Spinning Studio, the country's first group indoor cycling facility along Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City, right in front of their alma mater.

Fitness fanatics

For celebrity hounds, spinning is probably best known as the exercise program that got Oprah thin, which is as close to a Good Housekeeping seal of approval as you can get these days. It was invented by Johnny G., a long-distance cycling nut, who devised a unique stationary bicycle and workout that approximated the feel of real road riding, but with better and faster results. It caught on among fitness fanatics, and fueled by Oprah's glowing endorsement, soon grew into a global franchise with 20,000 Spinning centers worldwide. Mercado's is the first authorized center in the Philippines.

Why spin?

"I'm kinda obsessive-compulsive when it comes to cycling knowledge," says Mercado. "I'm very imbedded in the local cycling community, so while physically I'm not among the elite of my age group, I would say that I have a pretty in-depth knowledge of cycling physiology, and that is why I like the spinning program more than other indoor cycling programs. It's truer to the cycling experience, it was invented by a cyclist and he keeps the movements faithful to what a person does on a real road bike."

Except that it's about 50 percent more effective than real riding, in terms of fitness-building and calorie-burning. Freed from the nerve-racking hassles of dodging pedestrians, cars, dogs and potholes and the deleterious effects of breathing in diesel fumes, spinners are able to concentrate on the workout, without fear of sunburn or a catastrophic traffic collision.

"Some of our coaches are professional athletes, and for the last two months some of them have limited their training to spinning, and they've done very well in their events," says Mercado. "One of them, Kaye Lopez, placed first in her age group in the Clark Duathlon, and she hadn't been doing it for some time. As a cyclist you get a much higher quality workout here."

Better grasp

The Loyola Spinning Studio's other coaches include triathletes Nonoy Jopson, Jojo Macalinal and Ige Lopez, Bing Alto of the David's Salon All Women's Professional Cycling Team and TV host Paolo Abrera. All of them have been certified by the mother organization in Venice Beach, California, and undergo further training in the program from time to time. In fact, Mercado chose to hire cyclists over aerobics instructors because they have a better grasp of the cycling experience, and are able to bring that into the studio.

But spinning isn't just for "real" cyclists, he hastens to add.

"It has attracted dropouts of group aerobic classes because while beneficial, aerobics requires people to be

An ad man by day and an avid cyclist on weekends, Paolo Mercado discovered in spinning a workout that approximates the rigors and pleasures of biking without the hazards of accidents and toxic fumes. Plus, it just burns up the calories!

This guy
isn't just
spinnin'
his wheel
when it comes
to an
alternative
BIKING
workout

An ad man by day and an avid cyclist on weekends, Paolo Mercado discovered in spinning a workout that approximates the rigors and pleasures of biking without the hazards of accidents and toxic fumes. Plus, it just burns up the calories!

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EQ DRY BABY DIAPER with cloth-like cover PACKAGING	LABEL POINTS
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Econo Pack (S40s, M36s, L32s, XL26s)	1 point
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	3 points

2. Submit the required EQ Dry Baby Diaper wrapped together with the following information: sender's name, complete address where you want the premium items delivered, baby's name and age, telephone and/or cellphone numbers, signature of parenthood, and the desired premium item, written on a piece of paper and enclosed in an envelope. For hard-to-find locations, it would be best that location information of the address given be provided for easy reference.

3. Entries can be mailed or hand carried to:
"EQ Dry Travel Buddies" OR "EQ Dry Travel Buddies"
16 United Merchandise, Inc.
33rd Floor, Raffles Corporate Center
Esplanade Avenue, Ongpin Center, Pasig City
P.O. Box 14260 Pasig City

4. Consumers may choose any of the following collectible baby bag designs with the required EQ Dry Baby Diaper intact points.

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Animal Face Design (available designs): C: Cow D: Horse E: Penguin F: Dog	8 points each

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- Only packs of EQ Dry with cloth-like cover (plain or white) will be accepted.

- Entries containing cut-out points will not be honored.

V. The chosen premium items shall be delivered by LBCAP Express to the address submitted by the consumer. In the event that the entry sender is not present during the time of delivery, a member of his/her household may be asked to sign a proof of delivery and receive the premium items in behalf of the entry sender.

VI. Delivery lead times for the premium items are as follows (commencing upon receipt of "delivery orders" by the sender):

- A. Metro Manila: within 2 to 3 days
B. Luzon & Visayas: within 2 to 4 days
C. Mindanao: within 3 to 5 days

VII. Premium bags will be delivered within 60 days from end of promo period.

VIII. Consumers may join as many times as they want.

IX. Prices are non-negotiable to cash.

X. Entries that are not qualified 15 days after the promo period.

For more information, please visit www.eqdry.com.



This guy...from page 3

somewhat coordinated, and with some movements, you really need to know how to dance. The people who need it most, the clinically obese, often are the ones who are uncoordinated or who can't take a high impact movement, so they limit themselves to the cardio machines in the gym—the treadmill, stationary bike, and the experience of that is, it's boring."

To begin with, the spinner isn't your dad's old stationary bike now rusting away in the garage. It's a precision piece of machinery (as well it should be) considering the six-figure tag

price, per) designed to put you in the proper riding position, with about 60 percent of your weight on the saddle and the rest on the handlebars, so there's less chafing on your prostate (or labia, if you're female). The fixed gear (no freewheeling) on the 40-pound flywheel means you have to keep pedaling, while a user-adjustable dial allows you to adjust the resistance to mimic varied terrain.

But even with its technological ad-

vances, it's still basically a stationary bike. What really defines spinning is the program, not the bike.

"What spinning does is, it takes the safety of a cardio machine, and the motivating and friendly atmosphere of group exercise and molds it into one," says Mercado. "That's the magic of spinning. It's easy to learn, it's low impact and you can always exercise at your own pace."

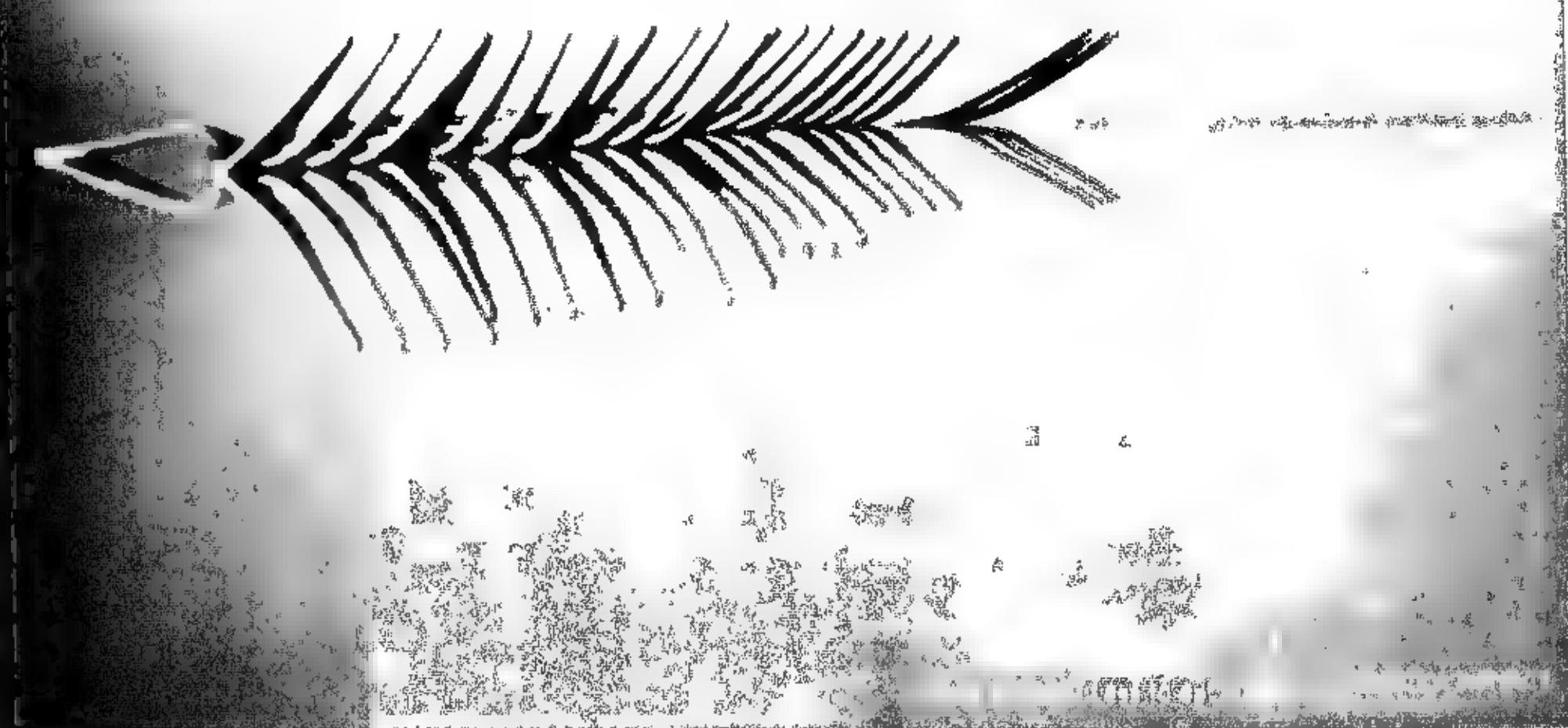
In a spinning session, the coach leads

the group through a 40-minute workout, after individually fitting each member to his bike, i.e. ensuring correct saddle height, handlebar extension, riding position for his body dimensions and riding experience. Using appropriate background music (very important for that heroic "Chariots of Fire" vibe), the coach leads the group through warm-up, build-up, high-intensity intervals, and cool-down. Because the resistance is user-adjustable, people of varying fitness are able to work out together. At the end, you should feel just like Lance Armstrong crossing the Tour de France finish at the Champs Elysees in Paris, both hands doing the "V for victory" sign.

"It's a management of emotions," says Mercado. "The unique thing about spinning is, it actually gets deep into personal motivation. That's because the movements in spinning are very simple: there are only three hand positions and about five core movements, and after you've learned that, if a person has been through about five spinning sessions, the cueing gets shorter and snorter. What Johnny [Gina] has developed is a way to talk to participants, cutting not so much

To page 7

112

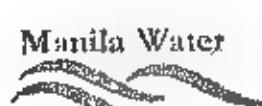


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Twists of Fate
text & photograph
by Maria Congee S. Gomez

Mona Sulaiman earned three gold medals for the country until doubts about her gender sidelined her. Today, she dreams of a foundation that can fast-track

the career of young Filipino athletes

Asia's fastest woman during the '60s leaves the past behind as she catches up with the future of Philippine sports

ONG before Lydia de Vega and Elma Muros became local legends in track and field, there was Mona Coco Sulaiman, once described as the fastest woman in Asia. Three golds each in the 100- and 200-meter dash and in the relay, and a bronze on the shot put at the 1962 Jakarta Asiad in Indonesia, made the North Cotabato native a household name in the mid-1960s.

But like Nancy Navalita, another record-breaking sprinter, Sulaiman's intense career was brought to a precipitous end by controversies surrounding her gender. Reports had it that the muscled sportswoman declined to undergo official medical tests and had to be pulled out of the Philippine team. Other rumors ascribed her refusal to take the test to "her being genetically male after all." More than 40 years later, the roving coach of the Philippine Sports Commission sets the record straight. "That was absolutely a lie," declares Sulaiman of the rumor. "Its source was a chaperone of another local athlete, who wanted to make things worse, and whom I wanted to finish off (in Tokyo) in 1964."

Gender issue

She recalls: "I was nursing a bad case of flu at that time and decided to forego the medical check-up because of my health condition." She was surprised that her refusal was blown up as a gender issue, Sulaiman adds. "As I understood it, it became big news back home, shocking thousands of my fans." It might have made a few media careers, she says bitterly, "but did they ever care about the deep hurt it had created?"

The gender flap nipped in the bud what could have been a glorious sports career and Sulaiman has kept her counsel since then, staying away from interviews and being wary of publicity. "Pag gusto ko ang tanong, sasagutin ko. (If I like the question, I'll answer it)," she tells this writer.

Her world, she recounts, was turned upside down by the rumor. "Not a day passed that people did not ask me about that gender issue. The wife of a Visayan local official then once came up to me to ask about my true (sexual) identity, and I was so aghast that I dared her to allow her husband to sleep with me overnight."

The sense of intrusion became so overwhelming that Sulaiman felt forebodings of physical harm. She decided to pack a pair of .45 cal. guns on her waist to protect herself. Confused, she started doubting even her athletic prowess. Did people seek her out because she had brought honor to the country, or were they only after her as an object of curiosity? "Nothing seemed concrete," she recalls feeling then.

Plagued by self-doubts, Sulaiman eventually lost interest in sports competitions and dropped out of the scene. She took various jobs after college: a checker at the Manila Appliance Center for two years, a staff assistant in Guam for a local film producer, a bit player in 1978. She appeared in 18 movies under Junar Productions, taking second lead roles at the urging of actor-producer Jun Aristorenas and wife, Virginia

Sulaiman.

Second lead

Among her memorable movies, says Sulaiman, are "Sta. Fe," "The

Panther," "Ako'y Lupa," and "Interpol Malaysia." Another movie project, "Asiang La Luma" with Nida Blanca

To page 7



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In Memoriam

by Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

This cager made HIS LAST SHOT while trying to save lives



JL with girlfriend
Petereen Aggabao
the night before
he died

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(UST), where he was a fourth-year Commerce student.

He was recruited by UST after scouts were impressed with his performance as a high school varsity player at the Saint Paul University in Tuguegarao City. Last year, he played for the Growling Tigers in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines.

After his UAAP stint, JL was preparing to suit up for one of the teams in the Philippine Basketball League after his graduation in October, when his dream was zapped on the night of April 15.

Investigators said the grounded light post where JL held on had apparently been unchecked by the resort management.

On the night he died, JL was with Aggabao, some friends and relatives to celebrate the end of the Holy Week

break.

JL was electrocuted when he touched a grounded light post at the poolside. He had gone to the poolside to check on Howell Alamo, 21, and Ivan Lee de Asis, 13, who were thrown to the ground by the jolt of electricity on the wet spots around the pool.

Electric charge

For about seven minutes and in full view of resort guests, a shuddering JL desperately tried but failed to pull away his right hand gripping the light post.

People tried every means to help him, but every time they approached, they either got jolted or they would feel the electric charge, according to Dr. Sofia de Asis, who had accompanied JL's group to the resort.

"It is only now that I know how it is to lose a child. It's too much to bear,"

UST varsity cager John Lee Apil had always been regarded as a hometown hero for bringing basketball honors to Calamagui, Cagayan. He was on a similar rescue mission when he was electrocuted in a resort on Black Saturday

said JL's mother, Ines. The family, she said, is out to seek justice for her son's death.

The pain of losing a loved one is unbearable. Just recalling it is painful enough, said Aggabao. But JL, she recalled, seemed to have premonitions about his death on that day.

Over lunch, and in front of his mother, JL had asked Aggabao: "If I die, what would you do?"

"I jokingly slapped him repeatedly," said Aggabao.

During practice with his Calamagui basketball team on the afternoon of April 15, he had told team members to continue playing championship-caliber basketball, even when he is no longer around.

"He told me to take charge of the team and continue doing the training routine that he taught us, even when he's gone," said his 18-year-old brother John Mark, who plays center for the team.

From the practice, JL went home to ask his mother's permission to join the swimming party that night. He sat on his mother's lap, kissed her on the cheek and said: "Mama, I love you, I love you, I love you!"

He then smiled and said goodbye.

That was the last time Ines would see her son alive. JL was buried at the Solana municipal cemetery on April 25.

People who had come to JL's wake at their house in Calamagui had nothing but good words about him. His sense of discipline, humility and kindness stood out.

Good man

"He had no enemies because he showed respect for his fellow players," his brother, John Mark, said. "Even those whom he once fought on the court shed tears when they came to visit. I realized how good a man my brother was," he added.

JL had come home for the Holy Week break with a mission. He had vowed to bring back his brother who had not come home the past weeks. He also wanted to spend time with Aggabao after a long absence. He wanted to be with the Calamagui team when it began preparations for this year's inter-barangay summer basketball league.

On the morning of Holy Wednesday when he arrived from Manila, JL went straight to John Mark and succeeded in convincing his brother to reconcile with their mother. He also found time to help his team prepare for the grueling summer league.

For his last homecoming, JL made sure he accomplished his mission like he always did. Q

OLANA, Cagayan—It was one hot summer night last year but the town plaza here was packed with basketball fans from villages all over town. It was minutes before tip off of the much-awaited game in the annual inter-town invitational basketball tournament.

Suddenly, fans roared as John Lee Apil emerged from among the players and put on his No. 4 jersey.

John Lee or JL, at 6'2", was to play point guard for the Solana quintet. He suited up for the team even as he had barely rested from an 11-hour trip from Metro Manila.

For the entire regulation and three overtime periods, JL was on the hard court. When the dust cleared, he led his team to victory against the visiting team from Tuguegarao City.

Taking on a "rescue" mission was a familiar role for JL, and one he played throughout his lifetime—up until his death on April 15, Black Saturday.

The 21-year-old JL was electrocuted as he tried to help two boys stunned by faulty wiring inside the Cortes Farm and Resort in Barangay Maddarlug, Solana, Cagayan.

In an Ibanag town where basketball is considered a religion, where lanky boys learn the basics of the game on dirt roads under scorching heat, JL had always been a hometown hero.

Through the years, every time he stepped on the court for a game, basketball fanatics in Calamagui village and Solana town felt a surge of pride and hope.

That feeling would be rewarded, as JL would always lead his team through the eliminations and to the championship round. He would often bring home the coveted Most Valuable Player trophy of the league.

Bright future

JL had looked to a bright future ahead of him. His mother, Ines Abig-Apil, said JL's life revolved around basketball. He always looked forward to playing in the professional league—the Philippine Basketball Association, just like his relative, Tuguegarao native and Barangay Ginebra pivotman Romel Adducul had done.

Even JL's relationship with his girlfriend, Petereen Aggabao, 23, bloomed on the basketball court. He was the Solana team's star player while she was the team's manager.

At the time of his death, JL was a member of the reigning champion of the Private Schools Athletic Association, the Varsity Team A of the University of Santo Tomas



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Solid Places
by Cecille Tuble, RC

What love embraces

If we are to know the depths of joy, if we must truly love, then we must learn to accept the visitations of sorrow

Joy and sorrow are sisters; they live in the same house. Maerka Wiederkehr

HERE is a pervasive attitude in our world today, which seeks to deny anything that would remind us of our mortality. We run away from wrinkles and thinning hair with the same fervor we display in trying to escape the more invisible diminishments in our lives. This is most evident in our postmodern pathological denial of the inevitability of suffering and the rightful place of sorrow in life. But if we are to know the depths of joy, if we must truly love (which is our most difficult and ultimate task, according to Tilke), then we must learn to accept the visitations of sorrow.

This reminds me of a little story: It was supposed to be just another routine prenatal check-up. The young mother was on her ninth month, only a week till full term. It was her second child too, a much prayed for and long-awaited one. Her eldest daughter, a precocious 6-year-old, had been bugging her parents for a baby sister, and she

was finally getting her wish. "Beatriz," that was the name they had chosen. But the visit turned into confinement: apparently the mother's body was all primed to deliver, but the baby was not quite ready to come out yet. They had to wait a few more days. The labor and delivery turned out to be a breeze, and she delivered a beautiful baby girl. It was all routine.

There were disturbing signs, however. The other nursing mothers in the rooming ward had gushed at how quiet her daughter was, while theirs squaled lustily, but the mother was a little uneasy. Her tiny baby took only a little milk, and would just whimper softly. On the day they were supposed to come home, the pediatrician noticed that little Beatriz was very ruddy, which was disquieting since both her parents were fair-skinned. And so another consultant was called, and soon tests were made. At this point, things unraveled quickly for the bewildered and shocked parents: there was something terribly wrong with their newborn daughter, and the doctors suspected a blood disorder and a viral



ILLUSTRATION BY LA MESTADES

Asia's...from page 4

and Pepito Rodriguez, fizzled out. There were also offers to do TV commercials and a flight stewardess job for Philippine Airlines, says the former champ, but they didn't work out.

She tried her hand in small ventures—as a supplier of Mindanao goods, manager of three beer gardens in Pasay City, and a proprietor of a mini-grocery. Only the grocery remains in operation.

Shrugs Sulaiman: "I easily get fed-up with running a business. I can't stay long enough to see it grow. Perhaps my heart still hankers for sports, where I truly belong."

To indulge herself, she joins athletic events on her own, bagging a gold each in the shotput and discus throw events at the Asian Veterans' Championship Meet in Bangkok, Thailand, last year. "Nothing short of what I could call my legacy," she confesses.

She's also found time to travel, spending her savings to visit pineapple magnate King Parker in Hawaii, another friend in San Francisco, and a colleague in Malaysia. Sulaiman relishes as well her closeness to the Marcoses, who once gifted her with a 30-cc Honda motorcycle.

Golden landing

Indeed, the small-town girl has come a long way from the Cotabato Central Elementary School which she ably represented when she was seven, landing a gold in the 100-meter and 200-meter dash with a time of 13 and 20 seconds, respectively. From there, the young Sulaiman graduated to the inter-scholastic meet, the national open, the district, provincial and island-wide competition in Mindanao.

When she was 13, Manila-based track and field officials spotted the budding athlete at an inter-class meet in Lingayen, Pangasinan. After being convinced to come to Manila to try the circuit, Sulaiman sought athletic scholarships to be able to earn a degree in Management at the Far Eastern University. Between studies, she competed in the 1962 Asian Games in Indonesia and a slot in the country's team to the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Although Sulaiman failed to land any honors in Rome, she came home, as she describes it, "several times richer in experience." From US champion Wilma Rudolph, Sulaiman learned to improve her running techniques and discovered how to put her 5'8, 130-pound frame to best advantage. She also learned to combine her long strides with breathing and speed techniques. Largely self-taught, she incorporated the techniques into her training regimen. Such diligence earned her a double victory in the 1962 Asian Games in Indonesia and a slot in the country's team to the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Her inclusion in the Tokyo event sent big sponsors on a race, too. San Miguel Brewery pitched in for Sulaiman's six-month training at the University of Oregon. Tapped as her official trainers were university track and field coach, Bill Bowerman and Bro. Iking Gonzales. Local shoe brands Elpo and Spartan helped her hurdle Portland's incised roads.

Through it all, Sulaiman remembers being buoyed by only one thing—doing the country proud once more. She could feel the rousing hopes and the optimism from Filipinos back home and she was ready to fulfill their expectations.

Lowest point

And then the medical test came up. Unable to take it because of illness, Sulaiman was pulled out abruptly from the roster. The resulting rumors and doubts about her gender were easily the lowest point in her life, she says.

The only consolation she had, recalls Sulaiman, were the frequent visits from young American boxers Joe Frazier and George Foreman. "Aside from consoling me, Frazier wanted to meet the mestizo-looking Josephine dela Vista (who won a bronze in the discus throw at the 1962 Jakarta Asian). He wanted me to act as their go-between," she says.

Taking up sports seriously became improbable, after she sustained a broken left kneecap from a road accident in 1988. But she does manage a walk-jog-walk along Mindanao Avenue before she heads home to Montalban, Rizal, where she has been sharing a home with long-time partner, Noemi and her two grown-up kids, for 15 years now.

Sulaiman also has to contend with an incipient case of diabetes, for which she received P25,000 worth of medical assistance from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. She's given in to age, says this former athlete, but she still banks on her strength, determination and experience to keep her going.

Pauper state

The rumors about her gender hardly bother her now. Her main beef these days is the pauper state of former athletes and the country's indifference to them. "Ang tawag nila sa amin, 'kumot na bayani, di ba? (Well, what can you expect? They call us forgotten heroes, right?) The monthly P15,000 they used to receive has long been scrapped from the budget, says Sulaiman. The same fate might befall the monthly P5,000 each for 20 athletes who have brought home gold, silver or bronze, she adds. It's a good thing she has occasional coaching stints for which she gets P3,000, says Sulaiman; otherwise, she could hardly make ends meet.

A source of comfort these days is the Mona Sulaiman Foundation, a project she has been mulling over for two years now, to help young athletes get free education under an athletics scholarship. The foundation, which will be located on the outskirts of Manila, will have its own oval track, school, living quarters and excellent facilities where 100 young recruits can prepare for international competitions.

It remains a dream, she admits, as she has yet to write the proposal and outline the financial support she needs. "The support of private companies and individuals is crucial. And so is the role of former athletes who will oversee the sports training of the young recruits."

Sighs Sulaiman: "Some people have consigned us to oblivion. Truth is, we could still prove our worth and are aching to be back in action."

Pinoy No!

by Jess Abrera



Tutubli

infection. She was also jaundiced. A blood culture was ordered, and since the hospital did not have the facilities for it, the father had to rush to another hospital to have it done. It was 2 a.m. by this time. Back in the hospital, Beatriz was having convulsions because of her high fever. Her mother remembers the scene well: "It is so terrible for a mother to see her own baby suffer like that, and to be helpless about it. All you could see were doctors and nurses surrounding her, just this moving, frantic wall of white coats and uniforms... I couldn't see her anymore. It is the most awful feeling in the world, to know your child is in danger and not even SEE her... the memory burned that image forever in my brain." A different sight greeted the father, when he returned to the hospital. He saw his little daughter, now in the neonatal intensive care unit, with assorted tubes attached to her tiny body, her eyes blindfolded to protect them from the phototherapy. He took one look at his baby, and broke down and cried.

The initial shock and horror at this turn of events gave way to a long, equally painful vigil. The blood culture took five days, and until then (the doctors said), they must wait and pray. Family and friends rushed to the hospital, but there was really little they could do or say. For what words can they speak to make any sense out of the suffering of an innocent baby? And what else can they do but relieve the parents of some of the practical details of a hospital confinement? The weight of a powerless, painful waiting for the fate of their child, and the struggle to find meaning out of the utter senselessness, was theirs alone. They clung to each other, and to their faith. She refused to leave her baby's side, and when her blood pressure soared and she was banned from the sterile area, she waited outside the door everyday, praying. He sought refuge in the hospital chapel, sometimes faking asleep

there, his 6'0" frame squeezed in the narrow pew, one arm clutching the back of the pew as if it was a lifeline, like a man lost at sea.

When the blood results came back, it was discovered that Beatriz had polycythemia, which means her blood was "too much and too thick." She needed partial exchange transfusion round the clock. She also had klebsella ozaenae, a viral infection that proved resistant to the antibiotics that she was being given, and so a new round of more powerful drugs was started. The days stretched with an awful, surreal, slow-mo quality: the father would visit her in the morning before he went to work, and her IV would be in her foot, and when he returned in the afternoon, it would be in another part of her body. Her veins were so tiny they kept collapsing. It broke his heart every time.

Still, they kept their faith. After one of their baby's convulsions, the mother wept as she told me what had happened. After a moment, she quietly, painfully said: "Do you know what her name 'Beatriz' means? It means 'Bearer of joy'... I know that even now, she is living up to her name." Only love can understand such words, and only faith can give the courage to see beyond love's present suffering.

After nearly two weeks in the neonatal intensive care unit, Beatriz was declared out of danger. She was finally brought home, with much collective joy, relief and gratitude, and baptized the very next day. Last Easter she came to the Cenacle for the Easter Vigil Mass. When I saw her hopping and toddling about, clutching her until Easter candle and chortling happily like the healthy 1-year-old that she is, I cannot help but remember all that she, her parents and family had gone through. Her birth and her brush with death is a little Easter story, I realized. Joy and sorrow are truly sisters, and love embraces them both.

This guy...from page 4

movements but personal motivations and emotions. Coaches can really talk to people about their goals, help them visualize what they want to do, cue them on the physical aspects."

With the appropriate verbal cues, the workout becomes psychological as well as physical.

"Spinning is very much like running a play," says Mercado. He should know: he met wife Dana during their Ateneo days when both were in Tanghalang Ateneo. In fact, the couple decided to start the spinning studio partly so they would have a project to work on together.

"Running a place is not new to us because we're used to stage management, carrying things around, etc.," says Dana, who comes from a theater family background: her grandparents are stage veterans Lamberto and Daisy Avellana, her parents are painters Allan and Ivi Avellana-Cosio.

"That's the story of myself and my wife," says Mercado. "I love to ride and she can't even balance on a bike—but we spin together and we enjoy the method together."

Mercado's father was the late ad-

man Tony Mercado, who founded Basic Advertising with Minyong Ordofiez. In 1999, just before his death, Mercado senior entered into a partnership with the French advertising agency Publicis.

Today, Paolo's current day job is as general manager of Publicis Philippines. Now 35, he has been riding for 15 years. Like many cycling enthusiasts, he owns more than one bike, in his case, a road bike, a triathlon bike and a commuting bike that he rides once in a while to the office.

He opened the Loyola Spinning Studio, he says, partly because he was bitten by the entrepreneurial bug, partly so he and Dana could have a shared project, and partly because it feeds his continuing passion for cycling.

"We dedicate ourselves to the spinning method but also to cycling as a sport, so we can take it from a very user-friendly beginners' approach to a highly advanced cycling technique," he says.

The Loyola Spinning Studio is located at 2/F Xanland Plaza, 323 Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. For inquiries, call or text 0917-858-SPIN.

People, Events & Products

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006

Non-readers down to zero thanks to McDonald's Bright Minds Read



Stunning Beyond Belief

They say that when one is destined to be great, they have the persistence to succeed. And rightly so, because it takes a lot of grit to constantly push forward and never give up. It's inspiring to see the world-famous fashion icons like Victoria Beckham, Kylie Minogue and Jennifer Lopez in the world of beauty.

So imagine the pleasure of being part of the first ever mobile phone launch of our modern day divas. The launch by Motorola V3i adorned with diamonds, pearls and sapphires. What a vision that would be!

Well, thanks to Motorola, GMA University and Smart Infinity, that's exactly what happened. The three joined forces to bring the ladies the breathtakingly glamorous and blingy Motorola V3i.

Accompanying the launch of Motorola's diamond-encrusted V3i and Slim Utopia's adorable pink version, the event saw the emergence of the dazzling diamond-kind creation of famous designer Carissa Orlina. Concocted especially for the ladies, Carissa Orlina's designs designed the unique pieces that were adored by the likes of Motorola V3i and Kylie Lashes that were to become the most talked about accessories and unique in the entire world and certainly the most blingy.

The A-striking V3i was created to elegantly exemplify their uncopied elegance. The V3i V3i was adorned with a cart of diamonds, emeralds & blue & yellow sapphires. The Trilogy Materials V3i had decorated with a mix of diamonds, pearls & sapphires. Both were decked with a mix of pink diamonds, emeralds & blue sapphires.

It was indeed a night to remember as the ladies graced the stage in their best outfit of the night. The Motorola V3i was given to Ms. Marivic Nicolas who was dressed in a Vert V3i. Ms. Marique Ongca was given the Slim V3i while Ms. Yameng Liang was given the Arctic V3i. While Ms. Kaitlin Goh was given the Diamond V3i.

The welcome was truly one of radiance and joyousness bridging the gap between the contemporary mobile phones and the divas. The atmosphere was definitely bewitched by the glitziness, glamour and divinity enjoying the feeling of being a diva. Evidence of which can be gauged by it all.

Mr. Nick Tapayewitz said the Trilogy V3i

Mr. Billie Gutierrez Belknap was awarded the Arctic V3i

Ms. Marique Ongca was given the Slim V3i

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MCDONALD'S CHARITIES' READING INITIATIVE called Bright Minds Read (BMR) successfully produced "zero nonreaders" among the 4,200 pilot students in the National Capital Region (NCR) in school years 2003-2005 and reduced the level of nonreaders among 907,213 students in 6,948 classes from 40 percent to 6 percent since its inception in 2002.

These results were formally revealed at the Bright Minds Read Fund Raising Launch with the theme "A Public-Private Partnership Improving Beginning Reading for Filipino Grade 1 Pupils" held March 23 at Malacanang.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo lauded McDonald's Charities in establishing BMR with the Department of Education-National Capital Region (DepEd-NCR) headed by Dr. Teresita G. Domalanta, Regional Director. BMR was created in support of Republic Act 8525's Adopt-A-School Program which aims to make every Filipino child a reader.

During the launch, McDonald's introduced its BMR new partners. They include the United Print Media Group which will help communicate BMR messages through its member publications, League of Corporate Foundations Inc which committed to fund 800 BMR kits in the next 2 to 3 years, Makati Princess Urduja-JCI (Jaycees) which will help in tapping local government units to support and adopt BMR, Petron Foundation, the first to adopt BMR in its beneficiary schools, PNCC Skyway Corporation which will provide space in their booth for BMR donation boxes, and DDB Philippines as partner for strategic communications.

"We are truly happy to welcome these companies into the Bright Minds Read Program. These new partnerships will make a positive difference in the lives of our young beneficiaries. Their help will ensure that more Filipino children will learn to read towards a brighter future. We hope there will be more companies and organizations following their footsteps," said McDonald's Charities president Kenneth S. Yang.

BMR was created to address a 2002 DepEd-NCR survey indicating that 4 out of 10 first graders are non-readers. On the same year, a BMR pilot study was conducted on 4,200 grade 1 pupils in 14 schools. At the end of SY 2003, 68 percent of grade 1 pupils can read sentences and answer questions about what they read while 89 percent have improved their comprehension skills. For SY 2004, the students' reading skills posted an astounding 81.52 percent mastery. As of SY 2005, BMR achieved its target of zero nonreaders with all 4,200 pupils reading with comprehension.

Among all the 14 divisions in the NCR, all the 527 classrooms in Caloocan City funded by Caloocan City are now using the BMR materials funded by the local government. In addition to the 70 pilot classes in the NCR, Public schools in Baguio, Cebu, Illoilo, Dumaguete, General Santos City, Lipa City and Cotabato City in Cotabato have now adopted the BMR technology.

McDonald's Charities and its partners are working hand-in-hand to take the program to other parts of the country with high incidents of non-readers in all 17 regions nationwide by 2008. Should you want to help bring BMR to more children in need, contact Zonito Torrevillas at 0917-8208123 or zonito.torrevillas@ph.mcd.com

McDonald's brings more smiles to Filipino children across the country with programs like Bright Minds Read and Baha Bulilit under the Ronald McDonald House Charities, a charity arm supported by the world's number one quick service restaurant chain providing high-quality products at good value.



PGMA meets Kenneth Yang and Andrew Tan

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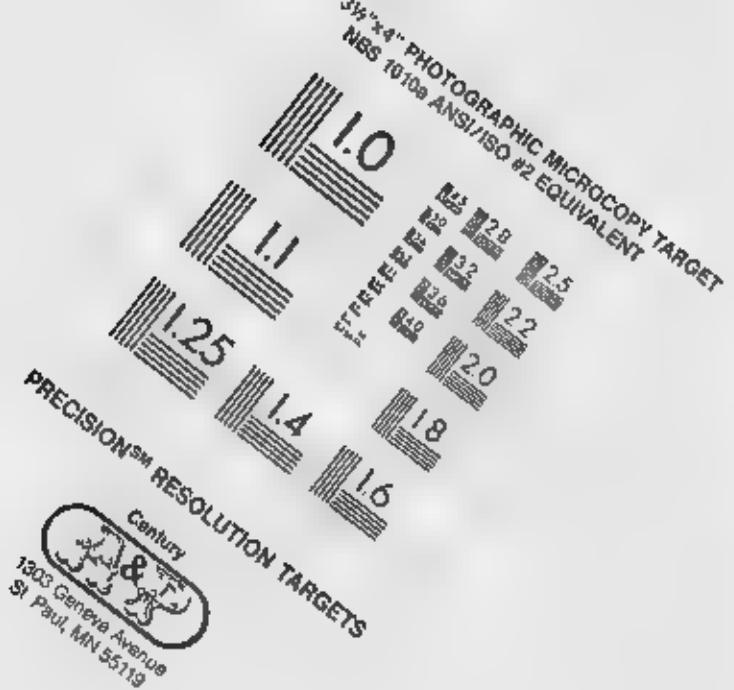
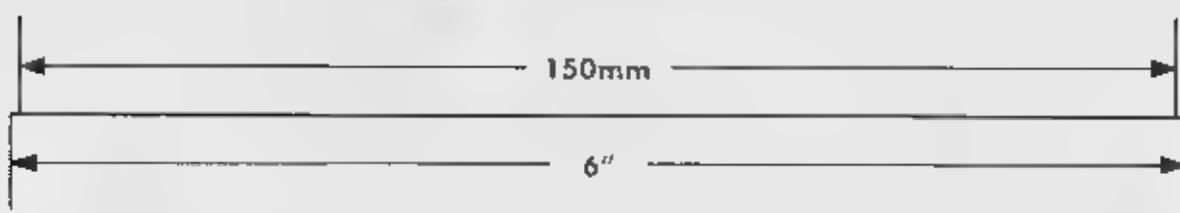
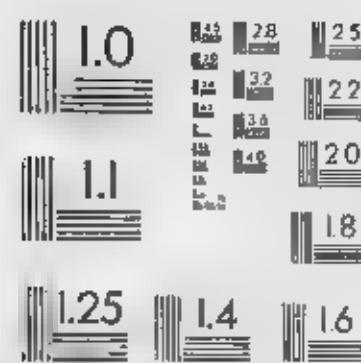
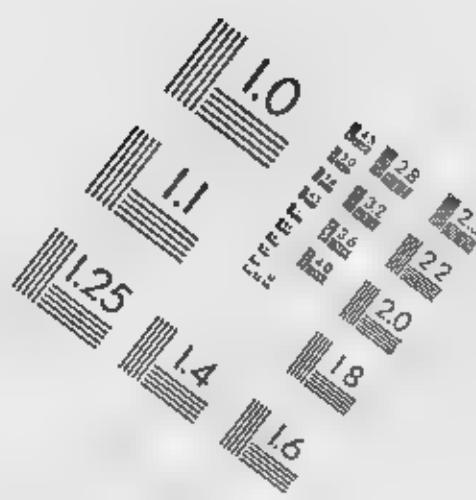
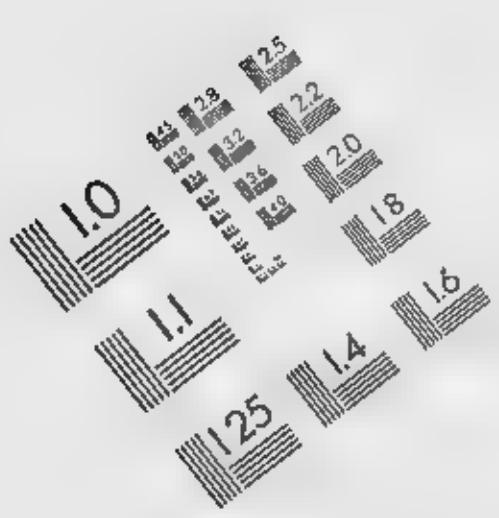
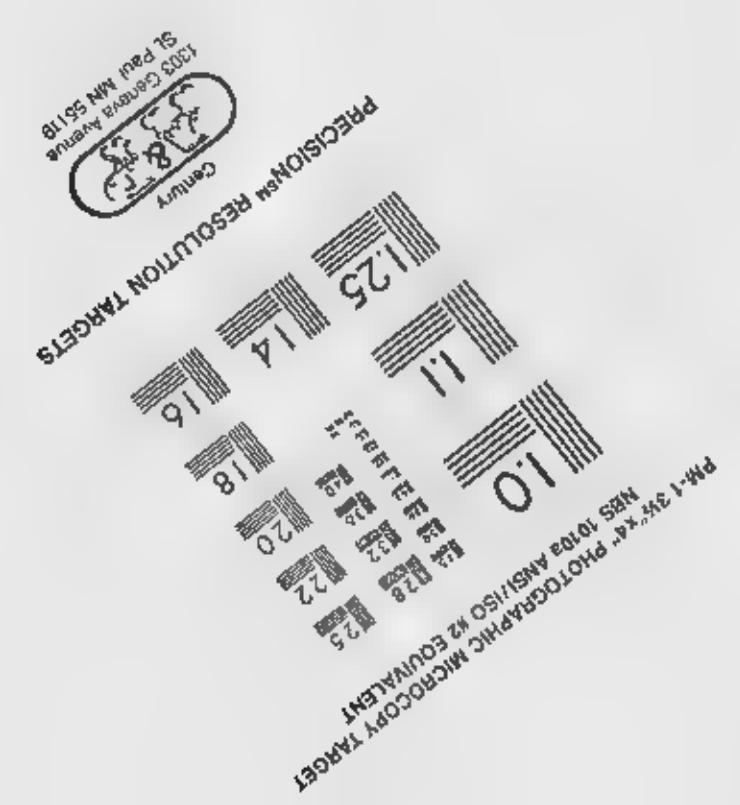
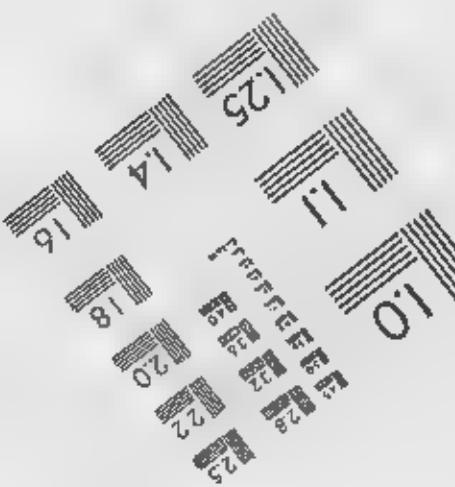


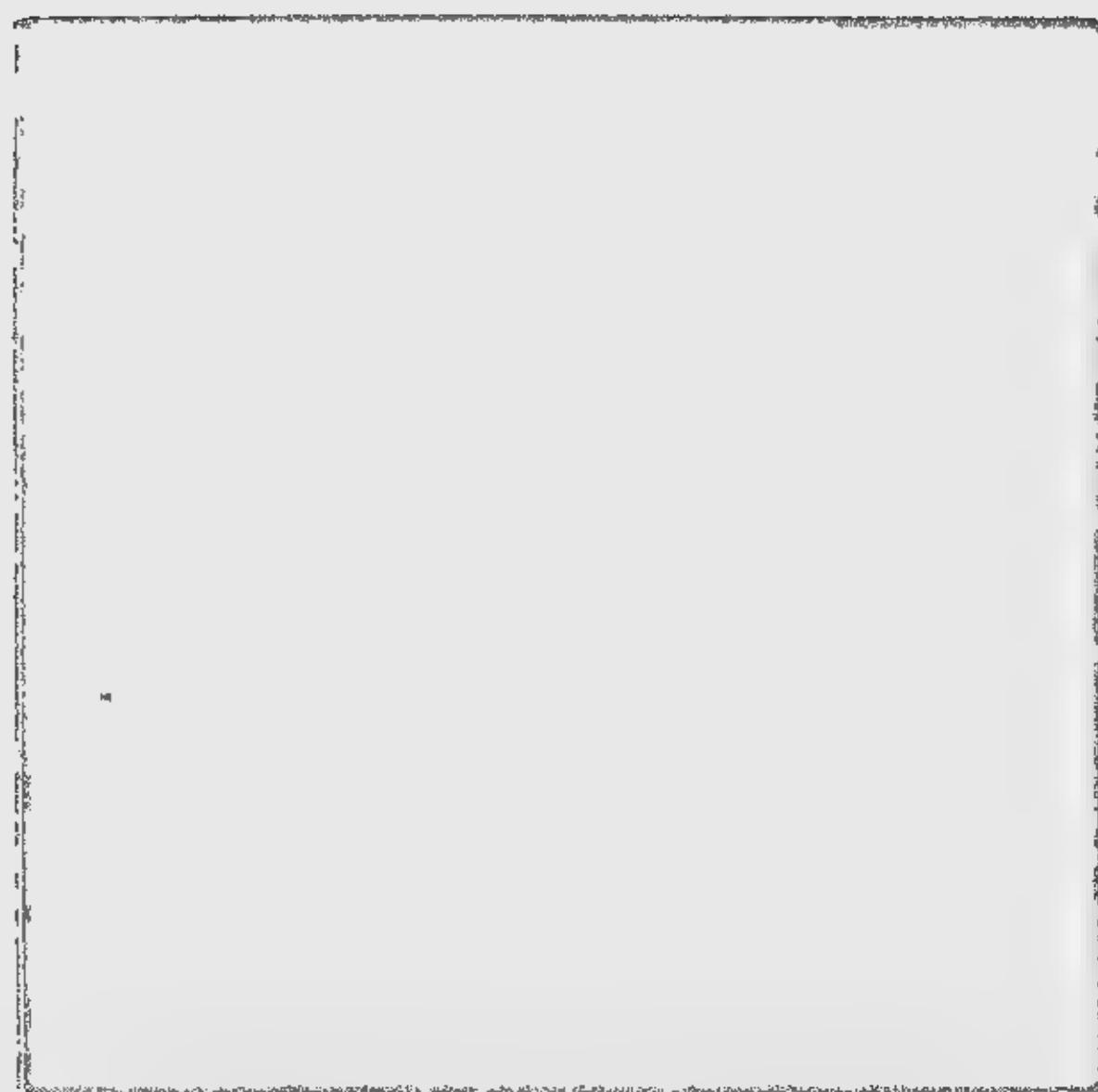
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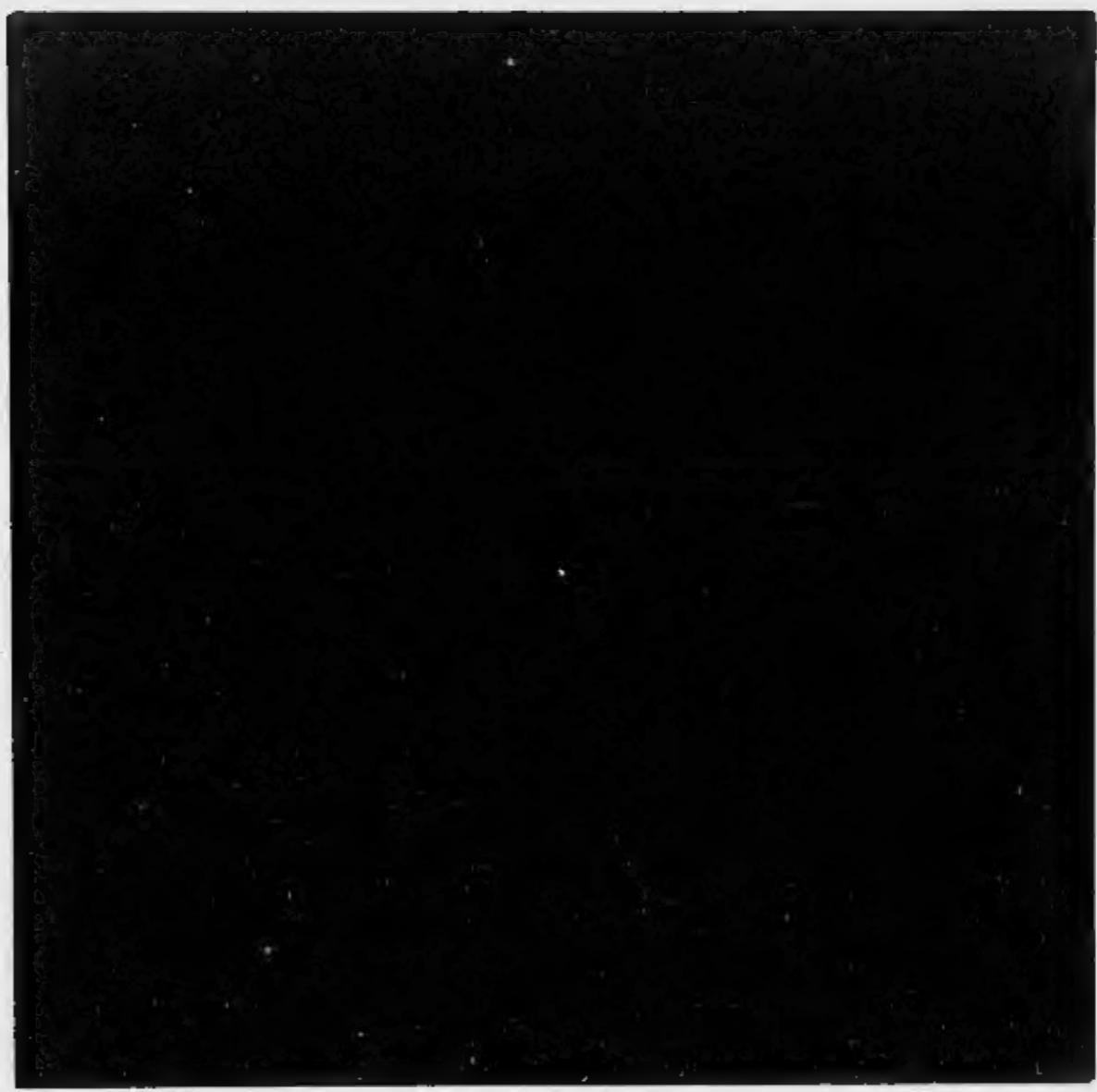
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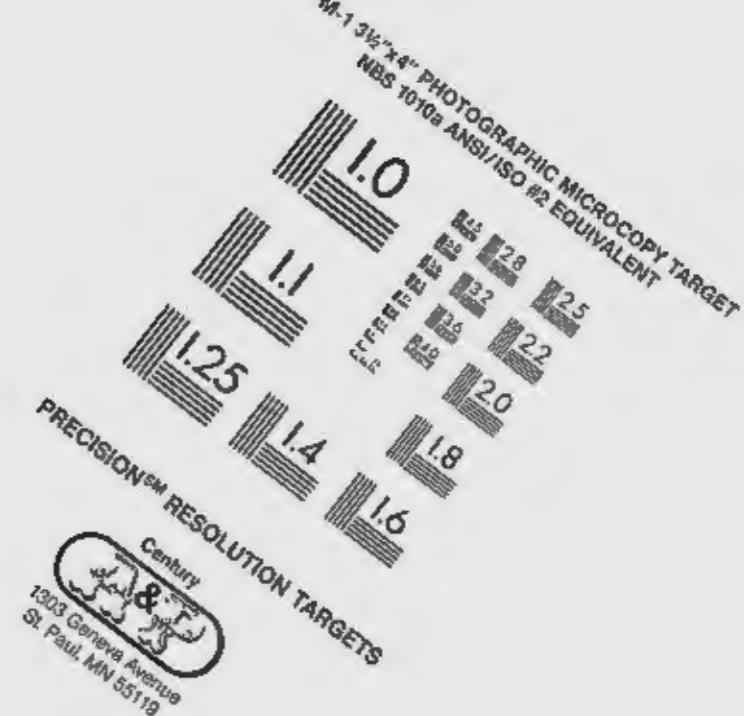
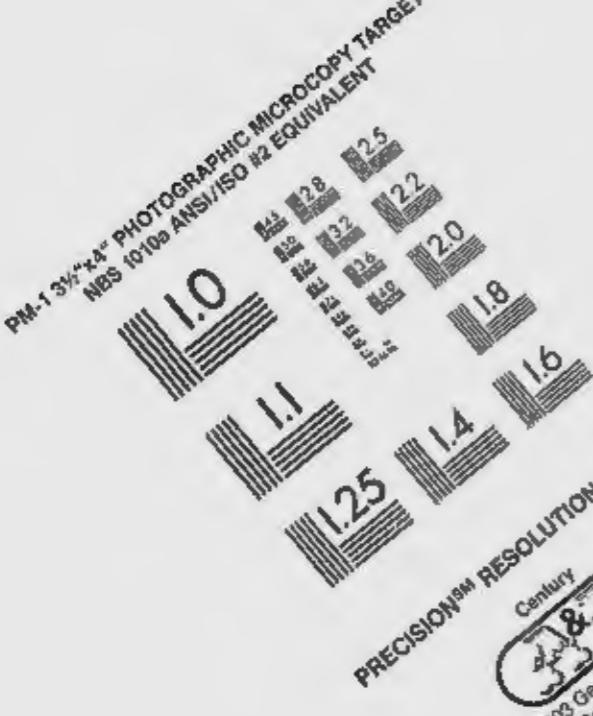
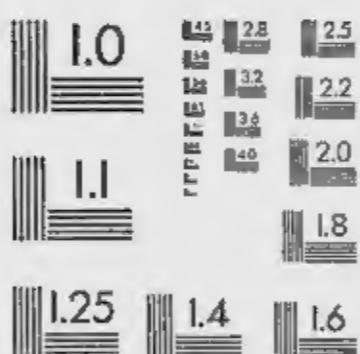
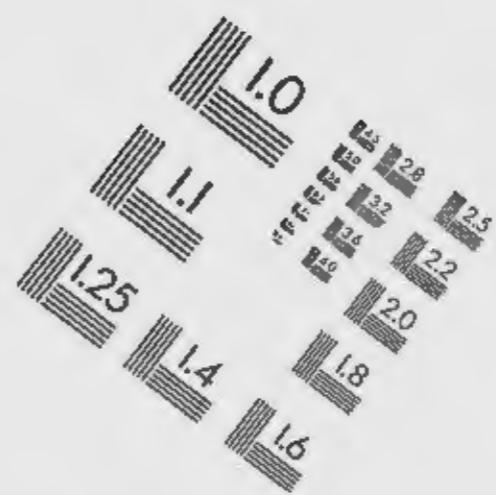
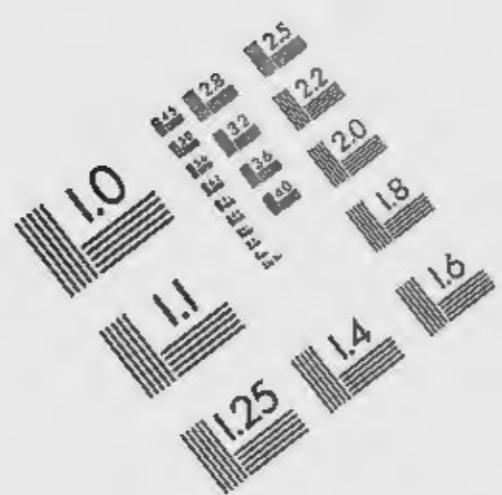
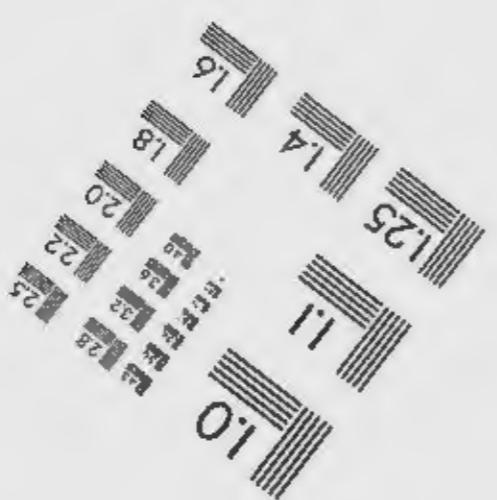


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